

COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY

The motto of our school has long been 'Give your best' and it is an approach that we encourage our pupils to take in everything that they do. We believe our environment of mutual respect affords every member of the TWGGS community the confidence to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life. Our approaches to teaching and learning support the individual needs of pupils, while we are sensitive and responsive to the wellbeing of every child.

Community

Achievements and contributions are valued and celebrated in all areas, both in and out of school, encouraging our pupils to succeed in public examinations, sports, and artistic, cultural and community pursuits. We believe that parents and carers are key partners in nurturing our pupils and aiming for this success and we involve them at every stage. By participating in our extensive programme of enrichment beyond the classroom, each pupil is encouraged to enjoy the pleasure and rewards which come from the activities themselves and from the sense of community that they engender.

Challenge

We have very high expectations of all members of the school community. Our pupils enter the doors with high baselines and, as a grammar school, we encourage them to push themselves to achieve their true potential. Our staff prepare challenging lessons, and content is constantly refreshed to remain contemporary. Throughout their time at TWGGS, we prepare young people for life beyond school, equipping them with the skills to become self-assured, engaged and responsible members of society, in a challenging and competitive world.

Character

We value the individual and ensure that all pupils are catered for. Working together towards high standards is part of the school ethos and values, and we balance these high expectations with warmth and support. The wellbeing of all is at the heart of our approach, allowing pupils to feel respected, included, secure and, above all, happy. With happiness comes the self-confidence to strive and achieve, both academically and personally.

Giving your best underpins our ethos and values at every turn, helping to create a richness of experience that is not only created for our pupils but also sustained by them.

Rationale

The law requires a daily collective act of worship which is wholly, or mainly, Christian in character. The major points are

- The school should provide for collective worship and religious education for the pupils
- The school must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn in writing by their parents) which is usually provided within daily assembly
- The Headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship (after consulting with the Governing Body) and this must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Implementation – Roles and Responsibilities

The schedule is arranged by the Deputy Headteacher, following the procedures set out in Appendix 1.

Full school assemblies are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, KS3 on Tuesday, and KS4 and 5 on Thursday. An assembly schedule is produced and published one week before the end of the preceding half-term/ term. There is a three year rotation of topics which are based on issues of national and global interest and importance, including religious festivals, commemorative events, moral issues, UN days, etc. The Director of Music determines the hymn to be sung, if appropriate. Over the course of a year, members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) lead the majority of

assemblies. Senior Prefects lead a number of assemblies each year, and other members of staff and pupil groups can request to lead assemblies.

Key Stage Three assemblies are held on Fridays, Key Stage Four assemblies on Mondays and Sixth Form assemblies are held on Wednesdays. Responsibility for all aspects of the organization of these assemblies lies with the relevant Head of Year.

On the two days each week when pupils are not attending a full school or Key Stage/Sixth Form assembly, they have form time and remain in their form rooms with their form teacher. The Deputy Headteacher provides a 'Thought for the Week' topic and it is the responsibility of the form teacher to use this as the vehicle for a form collective worship. Heads of Year and SLT have responsibility to ensure that this activity takes place.

Appendix 1 - ASSEMBLIES PROCEDURES

A. Planning

- Consult both the school calendar and lettings diary. Look at the next term and identify which Tuesday and Thursday mornings are suitable for full school assembly. It is probably best to do one schedule for each half term in the Autumn Term, then one each for Spring and Summer Terms. We do not have them as follows:
 - After a parents' evening or major event held in the Hall.
 - On New Year 7 Induction Day, Year 8 Shakespeare Festival, Year 9 Drama Festival, Key Stage 3 Awards, Sports Day, if these fall on a Tuesday or a Thursday.
 - During internal Year 10, Year 11, L6th and U6th mock exams.
- If the last day of a full term falls on a Tuesday or Thursday, assembly is held at 1pm, rather than at 8.50am.
- The final assembly for each full term is at 1pm: Christmas Service, Easter Service and Final Assembly.

B. Leading Assemblies

- HT always does the following assemblies:
 - First and final assemblies of each term (1st two in September).
 - Occasions such as Leavers' Service, KS3 Awards, Sports Day.
- There are three Charities assemblies, one early in each full term. Dep HT does these.
- Harvest Festival is normally early October, better on a Thursday.
- Head Girl Team does two assemblies per year, one in early July, the second early in the new school year.
- Remaining assembly slots are allocated to the Senior Leadership Team on a rota basis.

C. Topics

- There is a three year schedule devised for TWGGS, after consultation with staff.

D. Hymns

- If required, choose a hymn from the list which links, even if only vaguely, with the topic.

E. Non-attendees

- Year 7 have their own separate Harvest assembly in the PAC.
- Everyone attends the first and last assemblies of each term, as well as Remembrance assembly.

F. Notifications

- Assembly rota including topics, staff, hymn (where required) –copies go to: the Senior Leadership Team, Cover Board, Director of Music, Directors of Achievement KS3, 4 and 5, Caretakers and Reception,