**RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## Policy Statement

At Ravenswood School pupils will be given the opportunity to join in an act of collective worship every week with their departmental group. Every Friday we also have Team of the Week assemblies where the whole school meet virtually to reflect and celebrate the work of the pupils that week. At the end of each of these pupils have time to 'review and reflect'. On other days there will be opportunities for reflection, celebration, thanksgiving or discussions, through time to talk sessions.

At Ravenswood School the pupils will gather together weekly for an assembly (either in person or virtually), which will include an act of worship within it. On these occasions the Primary, Secondary and Post 16 departments respectively will assemble as communities, which will include time to consider and celebrate aspects of the spiritual dimension of life, reflecting the varied beliefs and experiences of the pupils and teachers. There will be some personal space to be quiet, to think and to reflect.

Worship at Ravenswood School will reflect something special in accordance with the work we embrace with our pupils in developing their social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being. The pupils will be supported to engage in this reflecting their level of understanding.

There will be varying degrees of explicit or implicit reference to Christianity or any of the other main faiths. The diversity of religious belief and practice amongst the pupils at Ravenswood will be represented in the act of collective worship.

## Policy Procedures

- Assemblies should help to develop a sense of community within the School, and of being part of the wider community.
- Assemblies should help to make explicit and to celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for children as individuals, for the School and for the wider community.
- Assemblies can be used to celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
- Assemblies should celebrate difference and diversity.
- Through assemblies children's awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life, and of beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions can be heightened.
- Assemblies can be a vehicle for encouraging aesthetic awareness and enabling children to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
- Assemblies can be used to enable children to explore a variety of forms of worship.
- A "worshipful attitude" can be instilled through assemblies, encouraging feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, deep appreciation, gratitude, respect, reverence etc.

**Withdrawal from collective worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the data collection letter sent to all new families and to each family at the start of each academic year and on the school website. Teachers, have the same right of withdrawal.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of collective worship is given in the new starter pack and on the school website.

**Guidelines**

**Assemblies** should be **inclusive**:

- They should be child centred, related to the child's own experience and relevant to their concerns.
- Children should be involved to varying degrees as active participants.
- They should acknowledge diversity and affirm each child's life-stance whether religious or not.
- They should foster a sense of community within the School, a sense of shared values, identity, perception, outlook and purpose.

**Assemblies** should be **educational:**

- They should be governed by the same educational criteria that apply to any other educational activity.
- They should reflect the School's own educational purpose and celebrate a wide range of educational achievements and consistent with the educational aims of the School.

**Assemblies** should be **spiritual:**

- They should provide a reflective period when children should feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- They should provide opportunities for individual reflection and a variety of responses, including worship.
- Over half the Assemblies each term should be broadly Christian in character/ Reflecting British Values. "Collective worship is of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination" 1988 Educational Reform Act.

**Organisation of assemblies including collective worship**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Department assemblies – led by Head of Department | Time to Talk; class based discussion based on British Values. | P16 no assembly - on college weeks<br><br>Primary and secondary classes - Time to talk; class based discussion based on British Values | Primary classes – no assembly on swimming weeks. Secondary and p-16 Time to Talk; class-based discussions based on British Values | Whole School assembly - led by Headteacher Online<br><br>Celebration of Achievements |

**Celebrations Assemblies**

Whole school assemblies will be held for Christmas, Easter and the end of summer term, this will be held on school site. This is for a celebration of the pupil's achievements.

**Visitors to School**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious belief are not appropriate. In general, a Senior Leader is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

**History of document**

| Issue No. | Author/Owner | Date Reviewed | Approved by Governors on: | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | Ravenswood School | June 2020 | 1st July 2020 | Updated in line with a more multi cultural school. |
| 7. | Ravenswood School | June 2021 | 30.06.2021 | |
| 8. | Ravenswood School | June 2023 | 05/07/2023 | Updated as school too large to physically attend church for end of long-term celebrations- now on school site. Also updated that assemblies may be in person or virtual. |
| 9. | Ravenswood School | July 2026 | | Updated celebration assemblies |

**Linked policies/ Documents:**

Religious Education policy Visitors to School policy

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| Equality and Diversity Policy | Curriculum Policy | Education Reform Act 1988 |