



## Assembly Policy

# Wightwick Hall School

Review date: Autumn 2021  
Curriculum & Learning Committee

Next Review: Autumn 2023

## **School Context**

Wightwick Hall School is a generic special school for pupils aged 11 to 19 years. As a school, we strive relentlessly to raise aspirations and attainment by providing high quality teaching and learning in a safe and secure environment in which the pupils' welfare is paramount and where everyone is valued equally. We celebrate the diversity of all our pupils and provide a nurturing environment for effective learning to take place. Our links with the community help to create exciting opportunities for children to learn and gain a well-rounded experience of different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs.

## **Rationale**

Inclusion is extremely important to our vision and we aim for collective worship and assemblies to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils are present (except those withdrawn by parents/carers). Assemblies reflect and explore religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. Assemblies provide an opportunity for pupils of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on different stimuli and develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness. They also provide a valuable opportunity to promote tolerance and acceptance of all faiths and beliefs, whilst safeguarding pupils against extremist behaviour.

## **Collective Worship**

This policy recognises the school's legal responsibility to provide 'a daily act of collective worship' for all registered pupils (Education Reform Act, 1988), except those withdrawn by parents/carers. In accordance with the Education Act (1993), this should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', which is defined as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, but not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Dedicated time at the beginning of lunch is given each day for collective worship.

## **Assemblies**

### **Aims**

At Wightwick Hall School we aim to achieve the following in our school assemblies:

- Strengthen and support the school community, affirm the shared values and ethos and celebrate each unique individual member.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others.
- Provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to reflect on their own values and beliefs.
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views and promote tolerance and acceptance of these.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

## **Organisation**

Assemblies are held once a week. To provide opportunity to develop an awareness of other religious festivals to support diversity. Themes may also relate to local, national and global celebrations, anniversaries and awareness days. All of the themes support our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Curriculum and some may create additional opportunities to develop specific links to other subjects and curriculum areas. Time is also given to celebrate pupil successes and achievements.

*\*At present, due to COVID, we are not currently holding whole school assemblies but tutors are delivering the assembly to class groups.*

## **Visitors to school**

We strongly believe that visitors can enhance the pupils' experiences and engagement in assemblies and we welcome visitors into school. Visitors provide unique opportunities for pupils to gain direct, personal experience of a range of faiths, cultures and traditions. These opportunities are vital to expanding our pupils' knowledge and understanding of our local community and the wider world. When invited to lead an assembly, visitors must be given clear instructions relating to the age and ability of the pupils, the purpose of occasion or planned theme and appropriate delivery (content and material used). All Visitors have been approved by the Senior Leadership Team. Visitors should report to the office upon arrival and sign in, where they will be greeted and then accompanied by a member of school staff throughout their visit.

## **Responsibility and Monitoring**

Overall responsibility for the provision of collective worship lies with Ms J. Foulger. Assemblies are monitored and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.