

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Updated July 2022

Shrewsbury High School is committed to high quality curriculum delivery linked to the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics department, but this should not be confused with the requirement that pupils should attend a daily act of collective worship.

Each is required by law but should be seen as separate and distinct parts of school life. Shrewsbury High School is non-denominational, and the provision is predominately Christian but recognises the mixed religious and cultural background of our pupils.

PRINCIPLES

- Worship is freely given and will not be imposed.
- All pupils are entitled to the opportunity to listen to and join in the presentation of worship.
- The school's collective worship takes place during assembly.
- Collective worship should be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations, and concerns of the school.
- Assemblies provide an opportunity for the school to gather as a community on a regular and frequent basis and encourage exploration of emotions, feelings, diversity and personal value frameworks.

PRACTICE

An assembly takes place at 8.35-8.55am but does not necessarily include the whole school. All staff are expected to attend and form staff should always accompany their forms. They should leave their classrooms by 8.35am to ensure prompt arrival.

The whole senior school assembles weekly. Across the week, there are assemblies relating to specific year groups, led by Deputy Head teachers, Heads of Year/Stage, Teachers, or Guest Speakers. Pupils therefore assemble regularly to listen and reflect on issues and have opportunity to deliver assemblies. There are at least two form times for tutorials per week.

Details of assembly venues and staffing are in the main handbook section.

The school's acts of worship are in the main of a broadly Christian character although some contains elements drawn from several different faiths, including visiting speakers. Shrewsbury High School is a member of the [Schools Inclusion Alliance](#), and there will be on occasions assemblies recorded to represent a diverse and inclusive community.

At present all pupils at the school feel able to attend assembly although every parent has the right to withdraw their child from attending collective worship. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal should this occur, but the Head teacher would normally discuss with parents:

- The element of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advance notice of such worship and, if so, how much.



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Pupils withdrawn from collective worship come into the whole school assembly for the school notices and business.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

- The extent to which members of the school feel part of a community and a community spirit can be identified.
- The ability of school assemblies to unite rather than to divide the school community.
- The progress of the pupils to develop a personal philosophy, which promotes self-confidence and a sense of purpose.
- The fulfilment of the legal requirement.
- Linked to the ISI criteria for Personal Development.

The provision will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Deputy Head Pastoral.



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