

Collective Worship Assemblies - Guidance

Collective Worship Assemblies for year groups take place in the main hall during the Tutor Period. These are formal occasions and the highest standards of behaviour are expected.

Themes

Each of the half terms has been dedicated to one of the C.H.R.I.S.T. values (in order through the year). The themes for each half term are loosely related to the Christ value. In each assembly the C.H.R.I.S.T. value of the half term should be referred to as often as possible. Where there is a national or international day in the same week as an assembly this can be used as a basis for the assembly but the theme should be referred to in some way.

Start and Finish

Students should enter the hall in silence and proceed to their seat as quickly as possible. A member of staff should check uniform at the door and the Head of Year should be at the front of the hall maintaining order. The assembly should start in a formal manner. If there is a guest speaker then they should be introduced by the Head of Year. Messages can be done either at the end or the beginning of the assembly in discussion with the member of staff taking the assembly. Students should leave the hall in silence in an orderly manner, row by row as directed by the Head of Year.

Content

Collective Worship Assemblies should be informative, thought provoking and give the students opportunity for deeper spiritual reflection. Topics can be interpreted in different ways by the member of staff delivering the assembly but should try to include different media to engage the students. PowerPoints, objects of interest and music can help enhance the experience. When there is IT involvement the information should be emailed to the IT department (helpdesk@slougheton.com) well in advance of the date of the first assembly.

Student Engagement

Students should be actively encouraged to take part in Collective Worship Assemblies. This can be done in a number of ways. Students can be polled on their opinions by asking questions during an assembly, hands up to see views or by taking part in readings. When students take an assembly they should rehearse it before hand and the member of staff overseeing the arrangements check the assembly of quality and make sure it is on message.

Reflection

There should be time, often at the end of the assembly, for a moment of reflection normally in the form of a prayer, poem or thought provoking piece of writing, followed by a short period of reflective silence. Prayers can be taken from Slough and Eton prayer book or a bespoke one can be written for the occasion.

Alternative Venues

On occasions the main hall will be used for other events e.g. exams. When this happens and there are no alternative venues assemblies can be carried out on Zoom. Students remain in their form rooms and watch the assembly on the interactive whiteboard.

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Head of Year Assemblies

The Head of Year Collective Worship Assemblies can be taken by the head of year or delegated to a form group or member of the staff tutor team.

House Assemblies

House Assemblies are led by the House Champions in conjunction with the attached senior member of staff.