



Penn Hall School

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Collective Worship Policy

2009-2010

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1. Aim

The statement of principles and aims of Penn Hall School highlights our belief in the worth and potential of each individual students and the importance of fostering equality of regard for all.

Aims of the school include

- To help all students to acquire respect for religious and moral values and an unprejudiced view of other races, religions and ways of life
- To create a caring community, exercising concern and respect for others
- To help all students to develop lively and enquiring minds and to foster the habits of responsibility and self-discipline
- To help all students to understand the inter-dependence of individuals, groups and nations
- To help all students to appreciate, and seek to emulate, worthwhile human achievements and aspirations.

The aim of our policy on Collective Worship is to present to students a wide variety of thoughts and ideas. By doing so in an engaging and thought-provoking manner such thoughts and ideas contribute to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, as articulated in the aims of the school above.

2. Implementation

The school's practice, established over a great many years, has been to start the day with class or group periods, with each class leading a whole school assembly once a year. A Friday afternoon 'whole school' assembly is used to celebrate individual and group achievement and attainment. The purpose of both class periods and assemblies is to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students. The school should seek to educate its students in all aspects of their humanity, including the religious element within human experience. Worship is part of that experience, so students need to learn what worship is.

Both assemblies and form periods are 'collective' in that they involve groups of students. These are occasions to give expression to the common values which undergird the school's existence as a community. They should also provide experiences which strengthen attitudes and dispositions in all students, so that those with a religious commitment may worship and the uncommitted may, at least, develop a capacity to approach the threshold of worship. This means the interpretation of an act of worship in broad terms. It will include the fostering of worthwhile values which will be mainly Christian as they will reflect the positive values of a society which is based upon the traditions of Christian belief.

It is important to recognise that attitudes towards religion generally, and to Christianity specifically, will be various so far as students, parents and teachers are concerned and that freedom of individual belief should be respected. Young people should learn to understand and respect the values of those whose race, culture, background, upbringing or beliefs are different from their own.

The school will seek to involve in assemblies and pastoral work any members of the community who can contribute towards the moral and spiritual development of the students. This will mean providing occasions when those who have a degree of commitment can express it, while, at the same time, enabling those whose commitment is less, or different, to learn something of what such an act of worship can mean to those who take an active part.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any collective act of worship at the school.

All students receive lessons in Citizenship and Religious Education. The course is organised according to half-termly themes and these are reflected in our framework for Collective Worship.

This policy will be reviewed annually in line with the Policy Review Timetable.