NORBURY HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS

Assemblies Policy

Review date: November 2027

Next review date: June 2027

Staff resp. for review: TDL



Assemblies and Collective Worship

AIMS

We recognise that there are two aspects to our policy.

1. Assemblies are gatherings of groups of students. In year and school assemblies we hope to reiterate our school ethos statement:

   > ‘Norbury High is a community where all students and staff are valued as individuals. We take strength from our cultural diversity and pride in our cultural richness and use this to prepare students to actively embrace their place in the local and global community.
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   > At Norbury High, we aim to enable all students to live a full and active life. We promote the value of knowledge and push every student to achieve their full academic potential. We are committed to providing a curriculum that develops self confidence, strong communication and leadership skills as well as a healthy lifestyle.
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   > We are dedicated to preparing students for the future – to developing confident, motivated and resilient independent learners. Norbury High students are encouraged to establish a strong sense of self-worth; they become articulate young adults who are both creative and enterprising.’

Assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate the British values of tolerance, the rule of law, respect, liberty and democracy.

We hope:

a) to foster a recognition of the needs of others, tolerance and mutual understanding;
b) to encourage the ability and willingness to make a positive contribution to the life of the school; and
c) to promote an awareness of the wider community in which our students live and the inter-dependence of individuals, groups and nations.

2. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all students. It states that collective worship is to be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.’ It is within our assemblies that these requirements are satisfied.

Collective worship aims to:

a) provide the opportunity for the worship of God, consideration of spiritual and moral issues and the exploration of personal beliefs; and

b) encourage personal reflection and/or prayer.

Participation and response through involvement in the presentation or through listening to and joining in with worship are to be encouraged. Collective worship will make an important contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all students.

PRACTICE AND ORGANISATION AT NORBURY HIGH

There are year and school assemblies at Norbury High.

Some themes are preselected for each fortnight, some chosen by those taking assembly and some related to a current event or concern.

Care and sensitivity are needed when taking assemblies in our multicultural, multi-faith school. Whilst assemblies should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief it should not be distinctive of any one Christian denomination. Care should be taken when referring to Jesus and the terms “Messiah” or “son of God” should not be used unnecessarily. Those taking assembly should, as far as possible, identify from which religion a prayer or reading is taken. All parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship although in practice few do so. Letters about withdrawal should be held by heads of years (HOYs). Assemblies should end with a prayer/poem/time of contemplation.

It is important that assemblies start and end promptly including time allowed for notices.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES VERTICALLY GROUPED BY HOUSES

These assemblies are held once a fortnight and are taken by senior staff on a rota. It adds both richness and variety to have as many staff as possible willing to do this and is a valued asset at Norbury High. Student involvement in school assemblies is also to be encouraged.

Staff taking school assemblies are asked to identify the ‘thought’ for the fortnight and to select and if possible provide suitable music for the beginning and end of assembly. Hymns are not sung but listening to music can often provide a focus for assembly. PowerPoint presentations are often used but are not compulsory.

Tutors are expected to escort their forms to assembly and to sit with and supervise their forms. The members of SLT and ELT on duty are expected to supervise the silent entry and departure of the students into the hall. Other staff who are not form tutors are requested to attend and sit with the students.
Notices must be given to a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) before the start of assembly.

YEAR ASSEMBLIES

Heads of years are responsible for organising their year group assemblies. These are taken by a variety of staff and forms make regular contributions. Tutors escort and supervise their

forms.