



Celebrating Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Values Policy (SMSC)

Rationale

Celebrating SMSC is an important part of human experience. The coming together of different groupings of humans to celebrate facets of existence is as old as human history itself. We create opportunities to consider shared values and to reflect what it might mean to be human through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural beliefs.

Celebrating this in assembly is an important part of school life. It provides a period of time which brings together all aspects of the education that we offer. It can bind moral, spiritual, academic, social and cultural values. It helps students see themselves and also suggests that they are part of something much larger than themselves.

Purpose

SMCS values are celebrated in assemblies at Hodgson in order to:

- Create a period of time for reflection
- Bring the school together as the Hodgson family
- Encourage students to value themselves and others
- Provide an opportunity to share and to celebrate
- Develop students understanding of, not only, their own role in modern British society, but also, as global citizens who have shared interests
- Heighten awareness of major world religions

Guidelines

Each week daily Assembly for each of the four Houses will take place. On their designated day, forms in the House will go straight to the Assembly Hall in the morning. The Form Tutor will register the Form in the Hall. There will also be occasional year group assemblies.

Assembly is a strength and tradition of Hodgson. A great deal of time and thought goes into preparing assemblies. Throughout the year assemblies are delivered by a range of staff including the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Houses. Guests are invited into school to lead Assembly from time to time. For example, local clergy or representatives of Churches in the area deliver assemblies during the Christmas and Easter periods.

Assemblies are strong on morals and values and reflect the core values of Hodgson especially PAUSE and CARE. These also reflect broadly Christian values.

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Assemblies usually take the form of a reading or short address, sometimes with recorded music or video clips. Students may be asked to bow their heads enabling a period of reflection.

A rota listing who will take Assembly is published prior to each term or half term. This rota is prepared by the Deputy Headteacher. The rota will ensure a balanced and coherent plan for the year, with an emphasis of a broadly Christian nature, contributing to students understanding of traditional British values.

Assembly is used to recognise the importance of external events to the school and wider community. Significant events and occasions such as Remembrance Day or Holocaust Memorial Day are marked. Assemblies should promote inclusion, cultural diversity and empathy. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if students are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

Assembly is also one of the major occasions during which student achievement is celebrated. Students are often invited onto the stage during Assembly to receive awards to recognise achievement. Student musicians often play during Assembly.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Assembly. If they wish to do so they must inform the relevant Head of House.

SMSC values will also be addressed across the curriculum where this is relevant, meaningful and appropriate.

Reviewed by: Andrew Day

Approved by: SLT

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Next Review Due: September 2023