

The Abbey

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND SERVICES

1. Policy Statement

As a Church of England Foundation School, Woodbridge School will provide an opportunity for every pupil to attend an act of worship in the school assemblies.

2. Procedure

2.1 Purpose of Assemblies

The purpose of assemblies is:

- (a) To provide an opportunity for collective worship.
- (b) To enable pupils to consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues.
- (c) To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- (d) To encourage participation and response.
- (e) To develop in pupils a sense of community.
- (f) To promote a common ethos – with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- (g) To teach pupils how to worship.
- (h) To recognize the achievements of pupils.
- (i) To broadcast information and instructions.

2.2 The Abbey Assemblies

The Abbey assemblies will be based largely on collective worship. In line with the 1988 Educational Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, assemblies are normally based on the teaching of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the School. While the majority of acts of worship in the school are Christian, assemblies are held that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the School and in the wider community.

2.3

Assemblies will take place at 8.55 am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, before Hymn Practice at 9.15 am, there will be an opportunity for teachers to give notices. Assemblies should finish at 9.10 am in preparation for the lessons which start at 9.15 am.

2.4

Assemblies on Monday and Friday will take place in The Abbey Hall. Assemblies on Tuesday and Thursday will take place in St Mary’s Church. Class teachers will accompany their classes to and from the Church and sit with their class. If a class teacher cannot accompany their class they must find another teacher to supervise their class. If the weather is poor these assemblies will take place in The Abbey Hall.

2.5

Assemblies will be led by The Master, the Second Master, The Headmaster, The Rector, the Curate, the School Chaplain (Fridays) and class teachers and their classes.

2.6

At the beginning of each term an Assembly Rota will be published. This document will also include the weekly themes for the assemblies. Themes will be religious matters (e.g. religious festivals, and Bible stories) and secular matters and it would be of benefit if all taking the assembly bear the themes in mind when planning the assembly.

2.7

Assemblies will usually include a hymn, a talk and a prayer. Notices by the teachers will be delivered at the beginning or end of the assembly. This format does not have to be kept to as pupils enjoy a varied approach. Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. The pupils are informed that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. It is a special time and pupils are expected to behave in an appropriate way. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge individual pupils and groups of pupils for their achievements in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the School. When a class leads the assembly parents are welcome to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way that home and the school work together to support the achievements of pupils.

2.8

Pupils are expected to attend assemblies. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will provide alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

2.9

The Abbey also organizes church services in St Mary's Church which parents and the local community are invited to:

Harvest Festival (gifts then distributed to worthy causes)

Christmas Carol Service

Easter Service

End of School Year Service

(Retiring collections for these services will go to local and national charities.)

In the Michaelmas and Easter Terms the School also organizes a Choral Evensong which parents and members of the local community are invited to.

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