



# **Assembly Policy**



## **1 RATIONALE**

- 1.1 The school believes that assemblies are fundamental in promoting the ethos of the school and providing students with an opportunity for collective reflection and the consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) issues.
- 1.2 The assembly programme of the school reflects the values set out in the National Curriculum: "we value ourselves as unique human beings capable of spiritual, moral, intellectual growth and development".
- 1.3 Assemblies will also take into account current local, national and global issues that are topical and students awareness is essential to their personal and collective safety or their role as local or global citizens.
- 1.4 On the basis of these values, the assembly programme will:
  - Develop an understanding of our own characters, strengths and weaknesses
  - Develop self-respect and self-discipline
  - Clarify the meaning and purpose in our lives and decide, on the basis of this, how we believe that our lives should be lived
  - Encourage us to strive, throughout life, for knowledge, wisdom and understanding
- 1.5 The school is committed to developing skills of citizenship and assemblies provide an opportunity to share community values and success.
- 1.6 Our assembly programme incorporates large school gatherings which are a part of the tradition and ethos of King James's School. These include the annual Founders Day, Senior Prizegiving, whole school end of year assembly and the annual Year Prizegiving celebrations.

## **2 PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1 Frequency:
  - Years 7 – 11 will have three assemblies every two weeks
  - Years 12 and 13 will have one assembly per week
- 2.2 Student involvement in assemblies is actively encouraged and themes are used as a basis for Drama clubs and curriculum performances eg. anti-bullying week.
- 2.3 Senior staff take one assembly per week for each year group (including Sixth Form). The themes for senior staff assemblies are planned according to student needs.
- 2.4 An orderly entry into the assembly hall is essential for every assembly.
- 2.5 We will aim to begin assemblies with music. Regular live performances will begin with live music from students as arranged by Heads of Year or AST for Music.
- 2.6 Senior Prizegiving and Year Prizegiving ceremonies take place annually. These gatherings include music, speeches and are key opportunities to celebrate success and achievement at all levels. Parents, governors, guest speakers and staff attend.

- 2.7 Founders Day remains the school's largest collective gathering. This assembly celebrates the formation, history and traditions of the school and is held annually in October. The celebration of our school includes a religious speaker from a local church, drama presentations (modern interpretations of the school usually involving humour!), music, prayers, collective worship and singing (including the School Song). Guests from public service organisations and the governing body are invited, along with students from Years 7, 10 and 12.
- 2.8 Some assemblies will incorporate national education agendas ie. SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning)
- 2.9 House assemblies occur once a term and are led by House leaders and Sixth Form House Captains. Airedale, Wharfedale, Swaledale and Nidderdale meet as a group incorporating students from Years 7-13. House assemblies provide an opportunity to develop a House identity and organise the students to represent their House in various competitions.
- 2.10 Many assemblies, but by no means all, incorporate a moment of quiet reflection that relates to a moral/topical issue focus affecting students' roles as local and/or global citizens.

### **3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 The Deputy Head (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for the assembly programme including mapping assembly themes when appropriate, organising the assembly rota (including senior staff assembly programme). Records of assemblies are kept to check quality and themes delivered.
- 3.2 Heads of Year are responsible for planning the assembly programme for their Year group.
- 3.3 The music performances at the beginning of assemblies will be organised by the AST in the Music department; this includes music for prizegivings and events such as Founders Day.

### **4 MONITORING**

- 4.1 The Deputy Head (Pastoral) will run a programme of quality assurance for the assemblies.
- 4.2 Assembly themes are recorded and mapped where possible/appropriate without them losing creativity and individuality
- 4.3 The Governing Body will regularly review this policy in line with the School Development Plan and make it available to parents and for inspection.