BIRKENHEAD
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Assemblies & Collective Workshop Guidance

Approved / reviewed by:	Maryanne Ramsbottom
Date reviewed:	October 2026
Date of next review:	October 2027

Ratified by:	LGB
Date ratified:	October 2026

Ref: Policies/Approval cover sheet

Birkenhead High School Academy

Assemblies & Collective Worship Guidance

1 Introduction

Assemblies provide opportunities for staff and pupils to meet on a regular basis. They play an important part in the personal, social, moral and cultural development of our pupils at BHSA. They aim to promote a sharing of explicit values commensurate with being a good scholar, a good friend and good citizen.

At BHSA we endorse a family community through our assemblies and collective worship - the beliefs, needs and rights of others are explored. We hope to encourage the consideration of current moral and ethical issues, raise awareness of important topics and stimulate discussion and reflection around philosophical ideas and diversity, equality and inclusion. We raise questions for enquiry as a whole school.

Birkenhead High School Academy is not a faith designated Academy.

2 Whole Academy Collective Worship Policy Aims

- To provide a focal point of unity and strengthen a sense of community within and across the Academy.
- To reinforce a sense of moral purpose and common concern, and further students' spiritual and moral development.
- To give students a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity of religious beliefs, practices and cultures in our multi-faith society.
- To promote concern for truth, justice, peace and express and affirm values such as honesty, integrity, understanding, respect, tolerance, care, kindness, love and forgiveness.
- To link themes to the British Values of: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty and mutual respect; tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.
- To celebrate the various achievements of members of the Academy and show them to be of worth.
- To reflect on aspects of human life and the natural world and appreciate them.

3 Junior School Assembly Arrangements

In Junior School, our assemblies follow a cycle of values across the term: to be respectful, forgiving and kind. Each core value is explored in detail so that all three are covered each term. Assemblies are predominantly story-based, but also draw upon various national and International awareness days.



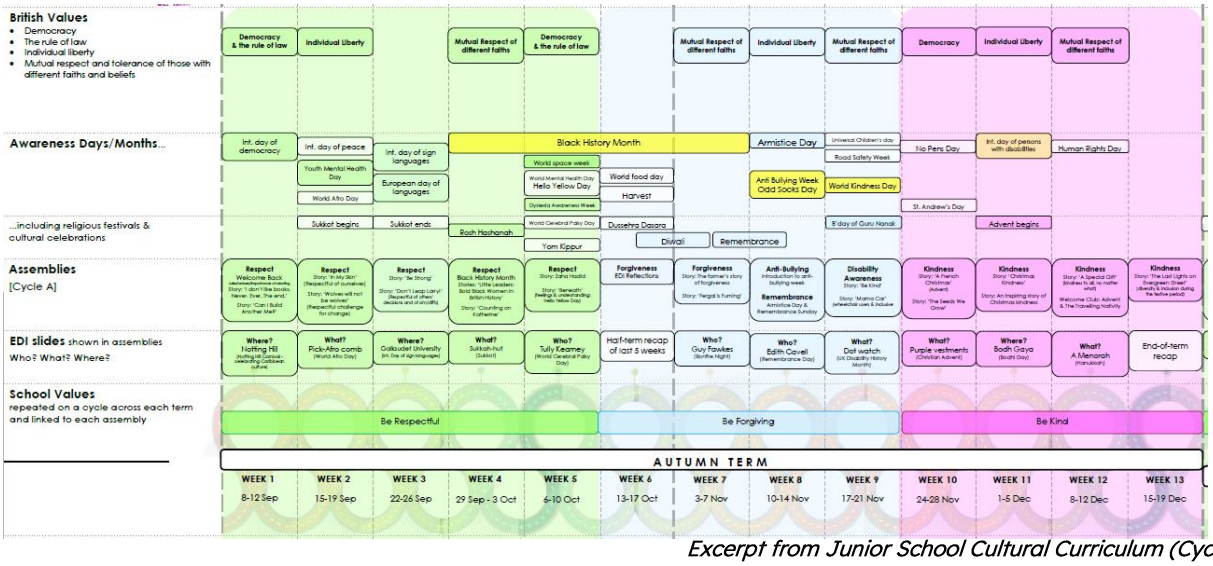
Each week, a pupil receives a values badge for exemplifying one or more of the core values. This is read out in the assembly and an additional digital certificate is emailed home to parents/carers.

Our Friday assembly also celebrates the achievements of individual students, teams of students and the Academy as a whole. In Junior school, pupils are encouraged to share a photograph of themselves with

their certificates/medals/achievements that they are proud of. These are shared in the assembly slides. Our Eco Warriors, School Councillors and House Captains are given opportunities to lead assemblies raising awareness of world affairs and current issues including mental health, recycling, global warming, reusable energy and local charities.

Nursery and Reception children welcome each other every day. They also have Circle Time where they can explore our values and each others' news and feelings. Every week there is an EYFS/KS1 singing practice session and KS2 singing session. These sessions use BSL, with all children signing to the songs learned.

Whole school assemblies are led by the Head of Juniors. A new 'EDI slide' is shared at the beginning of each week, then again at the end of the week. The EDI slides consist of religious festivals, national awareness days, symbols, pioneering people and inventions, etc. This forms part of the wider Cultural Curriculum for Junior School, with the aim to introduce cultural capital to the students where possible. Each slide follows the format of: What is this? Who is this? Or Where is this? Each assembly is linked where appropriate to the British Values. At the end of each half-term, a recap of the assembly themes is planned for and pupils spend time in class reflecting on the themes and EDI slides, completing their own, age-appropriate personal reflection piece.



Excerpt from Junior School Cultural Curriculum (Cycle A)

3 Senior School Assembly Arrangements

Assemblies are taken by the Principal or a Senior member of the teaching staff. Assemblies address the key issues, performance as well as whole school drives; in addition to this there are also year assemblies. Progress Leaders take year assemblies and all Form Tutor groups are given opportunities to plan and deliver an assembly.
Assemblies follow the above strands of British Values, EDI and key themes essential for the promotion of healthy personal development.

Form Tutors are expected to oversee the preparation and presentation of the Tutor Group Assembly in accordance with the Academy's Collective Worship Policy and bearing in mind the appropriateness of theme and content for the Academy community. Students should enter the hall quietly and sit down in silence.

Progress Leaders and form staff follow the scheduled activities during the week:

		Year 7	Year 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Monday	AM	Year Assembly - Theatre Space	Careers	Careers	Year Assembly - Heart Space	Careers		
	PM	Literacy						
Tuesday	*Staff Briefing*							
	AM	KS3 Assembly - Theatre Space		KS3 Assembly - Heart Space	Newsround and Personnel Development			
	PM	Enrichment						
Wednesday	AM	Newsround and Personnel Development			KS4/5 Assembly - Theatre Space		KS4/5 Assembly - Heart Space	
	PM							
Thursday	AM	Careers	Year Assembly - Theatre Space	Year Assembly - Heart Space	Careers	Quiz Activity		
	PM	Enrichment						
Friday	AM	Quiz Activity		Quiz Activity		Year Assembly - Heart Space	Year Assembly - Theatre Space	
	PM	Reading/Attendance/Behaviour review						

Students who have been excused from assembly on religious grounds and those who are late will be brought into the hall at the end of the formal assembly.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Year Group Key Stage Assembly or Form Time	Year Group Assembly or Form Time	Whole School Reading Time	Year Group Assembly or Form Time

October 2026