



Collective Worship Policy

For review by the Principal, every two years
Approved by AGC/SLT

Date of last review: November 2019

Date of next review: November 2021

1. Rationale

- 1.1. All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered students (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.
- 1.2. In consultation with the Governing Body, the Principal is responsible, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for arranging the daily collective worship. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the Principal may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.
- 1.3. Collective worship can take place at any time in the school day and the whole school does not need to get together at the same time. Collective worship can be organised into Tutor, House or Year groups or whatever is appropriate for the school.
- 1.4. We provide as many assembly opportunities as our physical space allows.

2. Aims

- 2.1. The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:
 - 2.1.0. develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
 - 2.1.1. develop a sense of being part of the wider community and celebrate difference and diversity;
 - 2.1.2. celebrate achievements and special occasions related to individuals, the school and the wider community;
 - 2.1.3. provide assemblies that are appropriate to the family backgrounds, age and aptitude of students and which reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief;
 - 2.1.4. reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
 - 2.1.5. consider spiritual, moral social and cultural issues;
 - 2.1.6. begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
 - 2.1.7. provide an opportunity for grieving at times of sadness or sorrow;
 - 2.1.8. experience stillness and quiet times for personal reflection.

3. Content

- 3.1. Collective worship contributes to students' development in providing opportunities for:
 - 3.1.0. spiritual development: deciding on the value, purpose and meaning of life;
 - 3.1.1. moral development: reflecting on matters concerning right and wrong;
 - 3.1.2. social development: encouraging students to relate positively to each other, to take responsibility and to participate fully in the community;
 - 3.1.3. cultural development: appreciating their own cultural traditions and the teachings of other cultures.
- 3.2. Other issues which might be covered include being healthy, being safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, economic wellbeing, inclusion and community cohesion.

4. Practice

- 4.1. The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible and involve students, staff, governors and external speakers as appropriate.
- 4.2. The weekly pattern for assemblies is published; with House Group Assemblies, and occasionally Year Group Assemblies.
- 4.3. Collective worship, whether in a House Assembly or Year Group Assembly, will:
 - 4.3.0.be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students;
 - 4.3.1.include a variety of elements at different times.
- 4.4. Assemblies should include a period of reflection.
- 4.5. This policy applies to all year groups in the school.

5. Parental Partnership and the Right to Withdraw

- 5.1. The main aim of our collective worship is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all students and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship.
- 5.2. Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child without any explanation. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any collective worship at the school the school must comply. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from collective worship, unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. However, in order to avoid misunderstanding, the Principal may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:
 - 5.2.0.the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
 - 5.2.1.the practical implications of withdrawal
 - 5.2.2.the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes
 - 5.2.3.if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much notice

6. Evaluation and Review

- 6.1. This policy will be reviewed every two years by SLT, led by the Principal.
- 6.2. This policy will be approved by the AGC.