



WORSHIP POLICY

Rationale

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The Head Teacher is responsible, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. 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 Head Teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. 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 Form or Year groups or whatever is appropriate for the school.

Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:

- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- develop a sense of being part of the wider community and celebrate difference and diversity
- celebrate achievements and special occasions related to individuals, the School and the wider community
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- consider spiritual, moral social and cultural issues
- respond to the 'Theme of the Week'
- experience stillness and quiet times for personal reflection
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

Practice

The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible and involve

different groups of students including Tutor or Year groups, Key Stages and can be led by students, Form Tutors, pastoral heads, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.



Each week there will be a 'Theme of the Week' which will be reflected in assemblies and Tutor Periods throughout the week. The weekly pattern for assemblies is Y10 – Monday, Y11 – Tuesday, Y8 – Wednesday, Y9 - Thursday, Y7 – Friday.

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students

Parental Partnership and the Right to Withdraw

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.

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 unless the request is withdrawn. 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 Head Teacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- the practical implications of withdrawal
- the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes
- if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much

Monitoring and Review

The school staff and governors will review this policy and assess its implementation and effectiveness annually