
CURRICULUM

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed and updated by the Full Governing Body: July 2009
Next Review due: July 2010

Aim of the Policy

The aim of the Collective Worship Policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God;
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- respond to the worship offered.

Statutory Duty of School

It is a legal requirement that over a term the content of the Act of Collective Worship must be broadly 51% Christian but the other 49% may reflect aspects of other Faiths which the school feels are worthy of promoting. In this way the Act of Collective worship can be of value to all pupils.

Under the new OFSTED regulations the Governance of the school can be deemed to be unsatisfactory:

1. if a school is failing to meet the legal requirements for a daily Act of Collective Worship;
2. the Governors have failed to do everything in their power to correct the situation; and
3. the pupils' education is seen to be adversely affected by this

All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship, on the school premises, for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents – see below). This is usually provided within a daily Assembly. The Act of Collective Worship can take place in Forms, Tutor Groups, Year Groups or in Assemblies: it can be as short as a couple of minutes concentrating on 'A thought for the Day'.

The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily Collective Worship after consulting with the Governing Body. Daily Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

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.

Implementation

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

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils;

- include a variety of elements at different times;
- involve the pupils.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The College will review this Policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Parental right to withdraw a Pupil from Collective Worship

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from **Religious Education (RE)** and **Collective Worship**. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE lessons or Collective Worship at the College the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

The College remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or Collective Worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The Department for Education and Skills recommends that to avoid misunderstanding, the Principal 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.