



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date of Last Review: February 2016

Date of Next Review: February 2019

Responsibility: Mr M. O'Shaughnessy

Advisory Body Signature:

PHILOSOPHY

Collective worship provides the opportunity for our students to meet together as a community and to share and express common values.

STATUTORY DUTY OF THE SCHOOL

The school provides opportunities for collective worship and/or reflection for all students (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents) in accordance with its obligations under the Education Act 1996. This is usually provided within an assembly, or in tutor time.

The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with The Advisory Body. Collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the students. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the students 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. The advice to Academies, active but archived, from the DfE in 2013 states that:

“Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves.”

An Academy funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools.

PURPOSES

To provide the opportunity for students to:

- reflect on values that are wholly or mainly 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

OUTCOMES

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

At Christian festivals and at times of major festivals of other religious traditions, readings and prayers appropriate to the festival may be used. The school recognises that it is a practical impossibility to assemble the whole school together and as such the requirements for collective worship will be delivered through the pastoral teams, Key Stages, Year Groups and Form Groups as is practicality possible in accordance with trust deed.