

Acts of Collective Worship Policy

All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn from this by their parents).

Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Provisions concerning collective worship can be found in sections 70 and 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and schedule 20 to the Act and in The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (England) Order 1999 (SI 1999 No. 2432). For further guidance on collective worship, see DFE Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. At Willingdon Community School we define a Collective Act of Worship as follows:

"A spiritual event that ranges between 'reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power' (Circular 1/94) to a reflective consideration of our place in the world or community and the morals and values that add dignity and worth to ourselves and each other". Over recent years, schools have (in line with other institutions and public bodies) been working towards an improved understanding of the diverse nature of their communities. Much of this work is in response to new legislation that places an increased duty on schools and other settings. Legislation (e.g. Equality and Diversity) requires schools both to eliminate direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment and to promote equality for pupils, staff and others who

use the school facilities. These developments reflect the growing awareness of the need to view different equality strands beneath one umbrella, rather than seeing them as separate factions competing with each other for time and resources.

Purpose

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students 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
- reflect upon our place in the wider world
- respond to the worship offered
- to value others

Spirituality

Spirituality can be defined in the religious sense or by reference to that which cannot be explained by other means or by reference to that which makes us fully human. To recognize the spiritual dimension in our lives is to recognize that we are more than the products of our genes and environments, more than a range of physically conditioned responses or intellectual constructs. Spirituality therefore includes:

- The sense of what makes us unique and distinctive as a person
- Our ability to seek to engage with that which is eternal and enduring
- Our understanding of ourselves in relation to others
- Our capacity to love, to care, to show compassion and empathy
- That which sustains our moral purpose and focuses our sense of justice
- That which allows us to feel and express joy, wonder and exhilaration
- That which gives us hope

The spiritual dimension is expressed in many different ways: in the search for eternal truths, the struggle for social justice, in scientific discovery, in artistic creativity, in professional commitment, the exploration of ideas and the love of others.

Implementation

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

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

Each week students will have one community assembly and will engage in a range of activities or events in Period 1 for the other 4 days, which support the principles and values described above.

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Headteacher

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