

## Collective Worship Policy

### Aims

The School will observe legal requirements, as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which builds on the requirements in Section 346 of the Education Act 1996, the Education Reform Act 1988, and Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act.

Namely:

1. Collective worship will be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.”<sup>1</sup>
2. Daily collective worship will take place.<sup>2</sup>
3. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
4. The Governors of the School hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the requirements for worship are kept.

### Objectives

- An act of collective worship should contribute to the development of the whole child by focussing on the spiritual and emotional development of the student.
- To inspire a sense of awe and wonder.
- Worship should be an experience that increases spirituality, heightens awareness and promotes an understanding of the values and beliefs held by people.
- Worship should provide an opportunity to understand and appreciate the breadth of human feelings, actions and emotions and the way they impact upon people in either a positive or negative way.
- Spiritual worship does not have to be specifically religious but should allow a time and space in which to reflect on values, beliefs and ideals.
- Collective worship should encourage all students to think deeply about profound matters.

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### Implementation

#### The Practice of Collective Worship:

- Collective worship should be conducted in an atmosphere that will allow the student space and time to develop their spiritual awareness.
- The content of the act of worship should be appropriate to the age and aptitude of the students.
- Collective worship may be instigated or led by members of staff, students or visiting guests.
- The opportunity for quiet reflection, meditation or private prayer should be built into each act of worship.

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<sup>1</sup> The act of worship can be wholly Christian; or, it can be mainly Christian, meaning that, taken over a term as a whole, more of the acts of worship will be Christian than not. This means nearly half the acts of worship could derive from the other great religious traditions.

<sup>2</sup> Daily acts of worship can take place in any group at any time of the day: the whole school, or house or year groups, tutor groups or form assemblies.

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- A variety of approaches may be used which can include readings, drama, music, PowerPoint presentations and sensory experiences. The use of a focal object, such as a projected image on screen may also emphasise the reflective nature of worship.
- Students should be encouraged to write or provide their own high quality material for use in assembly.
- Cross-curricular co-operation should be used where appropriate to enhance the experience of the students.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Governing Body has a responsibility to ensure that there is a daily act of collective worship. It is the responsibility of the appointed member of SLT to produce assembly themes for the year and an assembly rota, and to ensure the collection of evidence and the monitoring and evaluation of the acts of collective worship

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### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Monitoring of Collective Worship will be undertaken by the designated member of SLT and by Year Leaders. This will take the form of:

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1. Collecting evidence from form tutors of the focus for their tutor group assemblies.
2. Collecting evidence of the focus for assemblies that take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and Fridays.

Evaluation of Collective Worship will be undertaken by the relevant member of SLT against the outcomes of Collective Worship.

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### **The Outcomes of Collective Worship:**

Students should:

- Be able to understand or become aware of a wide range of values, beliefs and principles that will inform their perspective on life and human behaviour.
- Gain an appreciation of the intangible, for example beauty, love, mystery, truth.
- Be able to recognise those values which enhance life and be able to challenge those which show meanness of spirit and damage the world in which we live.
- Respect the diversity of faiths and have knowledge of their distinctive practices and creeds.
- Recognise acts of celebration.
- To appreciate the sense of wonder and awe.

### **External Activities**

It should be noted that certain School celebration assemblies, e.g. the Christmas Carol Service and the Commemoration Service, are undertaken in Chelmsford Cathedral.

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