

# SIR FREDERIC OSBORN SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### **Purpose**

Sir Frederic Osborn School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

### **Aims**

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

### **Relationship to other policies**

This policy is closely linked to the Curriculum Policy and Single Equality Policy

### **Development Plan**

We will develop and keep a record of the themes and content of our acts of worship so that a judgment can be made on whether the majority of these are broadly of Christian character.

Worship should:

- be varied in groupings, content and leadership
- be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of our students
- be challenging and enriching
- take place in an appropriate setting
- provide opportunities for students to participate in planning, presentation and response

We understand that worship is generally understood to imply the recognition of a supreme being. With the words and activities undertaken we aim to recognise the existence of a deity. Because of this our collective worship will include:

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- Sharing values of a Christian nature
- Opportunities for prayer or meditation
- Opportunities to reflect upon readings from holy texts or other writings which bring out religious/moral themes
- Music, drama, dance
- Speakers from the community

We recognise the need for creating a 'sense of occasion' for collective worship. We feel that a morning assembly is conducive to setting a reflective yet enquiring tone for the rest of the day. However the lack of space means that each year group has an assembly once a week with House assemblies once every term. On those days when students do not have a year assembly collective worship will take place in tutor time.

Themes for assemblies are agreed although individual teachers are able to decide how they will approach each given theme.

We inform parents of our policy for collective worship and their rights of withdrawal. If after consultation with the Headteacher, a parent does choose to withdraw their child the school will make alternative arrangements both in accommodation and supervision. A record is kept of children that are withdrawn.

## **Role and responsibility of Headteacher, other staff and governors**

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- the governing body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangement for collective worship
- all students will receive collective worship daily, whether in assembly or tutor time
- alternative provision is made for students whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship
- that collective worship is predominately Christian in nature

**Directors of Learning** and members of **SLT** are expected to take a lead in the provision of collective worship and contribute to the monitoring of the programme

All **staff** are expected to:

- participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage students to become actively involved.
- use tutor time to ensure that a collective worship takes place

Where a teacher chooses not to participate in collective worship he/she should consult the Headteacher.

**The governing body** will consider the arrangements for collective worship before approving them and review the policy on a regular basis.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Curriculum Committee will receive a report from the Headteacher annually on the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the school's aims and values.

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