



Collective Worship Policy

Swakeleys School for Girls

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Control Sheet

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Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Collective worship, well planned and carefully delivered, can offer students a variety of experiences and opportunities for reflection. It can also serve to enhance and reinforce the values of the school, drawing groups of students together with a common purpose.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship should be 'Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is that most aspects of collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It also states that collective worship should be appropriate for students taking into account their ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Collective worship is a community of many with different beliefs, celebrating the values and ethos of that community. It is an opportunity for students to be taught what it is to worship and how they might go about it. This will involve teachers teaching students to reflect and appreciate quiet times. It will call for students to consider and respond to spiritual, moral and religious issues and to explore their own beliefs. Opportunities will be provided for students to participate in school worship. It is possible to involve students both in the presentation and planning of collective worship.

Objectives

- to enable the students and staff to participate in a shared time or event;
- to celebrate the success of the community, either as a whole or as individuals, both inside and outside the school. This could be learning or sporting achievements;
- to make people aware of the complexity of the school community, e.g. roles of non-teaching staff;
- to acknowledge important events in the lives of students, both within and outside school. For example, birth of siblings, holidays, festivals birthdays and anniversaries;
- to acknowledge and foster an understanding that the school is not isolated but part of a wider whole, e.g. major events in the world, charities school links;
- to provide an opportunity for individuals to reflect on themselves and their personal experiences, as well as those of other people. The process of planning assemblies

Success Criteria

Collective worship should provide opportunities for students to

- worship God/a supreme being
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- be actively involved through the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in with the worship offered.

In addition collective worship should

- develop community spirit
- promote a common ethos and shared values
- reinforce positive values.

Implementation

Assemblies can and should explore the following issues:

Social Values

Freedom, British values, democracy, freedom of speech, community, individuals, responsibility, friendship.

Moral Values

Honesty, integrity, respect, consideration, equality, loyalty, compassion, justice, forgiveness, responsibility, tolerance.

Spirituality

- the essence of being human, involving the ability to surpass the boundaries of the physical and material;
- the development of the inner life and vision;
- an inclination to believe in ideals and possibilities that transcend our experience of the world;
- a response to 'God' the 'other' or the 'ultimate';
- a propensity to foster human attributes such as love, faithfulness and goodness that could not be classed as physical;
- the inner world of creativity and imagination;
- the quest for meaning of life, for truth and ultimate values;
- the sense of identity and self-worth that enables us to value others.

There are a variety of festivals, religious and commemorative days that can be used as a starting point to explore these values and ideas.

It can be measured through student voice and also through the monitoring of anti-bullying initiatives.

Evaluation

The value of assemblies will be considered by Pastoral and Curriculum Committee and the Leadership Group.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Pastoral Committee of the Governing Body. Next review September 2025.