



# Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed and Approved by Ethos Committee  
On: 10 January 2018**

**Reviewed and Ratified at the St Edward's FGB  
On: 26 April 2018**

**Next review date: Spring 2021**

**Member of SLT responsible: Mr C Farrow**

## **Introduction**

As a Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided comprehensive school St Edward's has its distinctive character laid out in the School Covenant and Mission Statement. Worship of God together is seen as part of our everyday lives in school and all members of the school community should have the opportunity to experience prayer, worship and reflection. We all need to be helped on our personal journey of faith, with Christ as our example and the Holy Spirit as our guide. We endeavour to 'do nothing apart which we can do together to serve your purposes of Justice, Love and Peace.'

The school community comprises of students, staff, governors, parents and carers. There is also a community link to the Christian parishes of our students, staff and families.

### **The aims of our collective times of Christian worship**

- to provide regular opportunities to life hearts and minds to God in worship.
- to explore relevant themes that unite and divide humanity, whilst following the Liturgical Year.
- to facilitate the deepening of spiritual awareness and development in those present.

### **The objectives of collective worship**

To help members of the school community to:-

- provide daily acts of worship, that facilitate prayer and reflection; encourage students to participate in and to help organise the acts of worship; and enable all to participate in worship as a meaningful experience, shared activity and allowing a variety of responses.
- provide acts of worship that are seen to be part of the overall educational programme, by being linked to the curriculum, to the Church's Year, and to national and global issues.
- enable those of different Christian traditions to share together and learn from each other; and foster sensitivity to the beliefs, values and practices of others within the school community.
- reflect upon the meaning and purpose of human existence within a developing relationship between human beings and God.
- raise awareness of social and moral issues, enabling empathy and compassion.
- develop an understanding of the language and nature of Christian worship.
- explore and develop their own spirituality and widen their personal response and commitment.
- reflect the aims of the school, celebrate the values and worth of the school community and the uniqueness of individuals within the community.
- celebrate special occasions and show appreciation of the gifts and talents of the school community.

### **Context of collective worship**

Collective worship at St Edward's takes place in a range of settings, in order to provide different styles and opportunities for experiencing Christian worship. Activities include:

- Each week, every year group meets together to have the opportunity for joint Collective worship. This is planned on an annual basis, with links to the Church's year and themes. This is led by both members of staff, students and visitors.
- Tutor groups meet together for prayer and reflection as part of tutor time on four days of the week. Each tutor is responsible for ensuring that this moment of reflection takes place and has a rota of collective worship on display. Each tutor room has a focal point of a cross/crucifix to aid in their times of prayer. Reflections are led by both members of staff and students through the week.

- All students have a diary of reflection which they use for personal reflection on one morning a week. This is led by their tutor.
- Acts of collective worship to celebrate particular occasions are seen as essential points in the school year. A celebration service of welcome for the new students, staff, clergy and parents, an Advent celebration and Christmas celebration takes place in the autumn term. The week of prayer for Christian unity is celebrated in January. Ash Wednesday is marked as the start of Lent, and a whole school act of worship for Holy Week, and in preparation for Easter, is held at the end of the spring term. Year 13 have a farewell service, incorporating prayer and reflection.
- The chaplaincy team are involved in leading assemblies and supporting acts of worship. Opportunities for reflection are organised at times during the year to which all members of the community are welcome.
- An act of worship usually begins each staff INSET day, and weekly staff meetings.
- A regular review of worship is undertaken by the chaplaincy team each half term.

### **Leadership, management, legal responsibilities and governance**

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship must take place on a daily basis for all registered pupils. All acts of worship in a voluntary aided school must be according to the Trust Deed of the school and can be of a denominational nature. At St. Edward's we seek to recognise and affirm the different Christian traditions from which the members of the community come.

It is the responsibility of the Governing body to:

- Ensure the policy meets the requirements of the law and the expectations of SIAMS and S48 processes. It is noted that parents and carers have the right under the 1988 Act, to withdraw their child from collective worship.
- Work with the school to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship across the school community.
- Review and update the policy regularly.

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to:

- Ensure the policy is implemented so that the aims are achieved.
- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Work with the governing body to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship across the school community.

It is the responsibility of the link member of senior leadership team to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Work with youth workers, local clergy and others involved in chaplaincy and spiritual development to co-ordinate, plan and deliver collective worship.
- Support tutors in the delivery of the policy and offer INSET opportunities where necessary.
- Encourage student leadership and participation in collective worship.
- Work with the governing body and students to monitor and evaluate collective worship.

It is the responsibility of year leaders to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Support tutors in their contribution towards to the collective worship policy.
- Monitor and evaluate collective worship within their respective year teams.

It is the responsibility of tutors to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.

- Ensure that students experience daily opportunities for prayer, worship and reflection.
- Ensure students' experience of collective worship is varied through the use of a weekly pattern.