



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Adopted:</b>	November 2016
<b>Review Date:</b>	November 2018
<b>Responsible for Review:</b>	Head of RE/Associate Head
<b>Committee for Review:</b>	Care and Achievement
<b>Frequency of Review:</b>	2 Years
<b>Statutory:</b>	No

## **Introduction**

The Education Act 1989 consolidates the provisions in the 1944 Act for Collective Worship. Students should take part in an act of Collective Worship each school day unless a formal request for withdrawal has been received from a parent. This can, according to the Act, be at any time of the day in whatever size grouping (class, House, etc.) and shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The planning of such acts, shall take account of students' family backgrounds, their ages and aptitudes.

An act of collective worship takes place daily at Bungay High School and draws upon ideas and issues that affect young people's religious, moral and social lives. It is led by either staff or students and may include some time for prayer and/or reflective thought.

This policy exists within the context of this schools Policy for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils.

## **What is Collective Worship?**

Collective worship only takes place in schools. It is a term which is used only in education, whereas churches and other religious groups usually think of their worship as being corporate. The implication of this is that when a group of people gather together due to shared beliefs with the intention of sharing worship then this is a corporate activity. No such assumptions about shared beliefs can be made in the case of a school community. The school is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds and who happen to be together primarily for the purpose of education, not for worship. The family backgrounds of students may be very different in terms of beliefs and adherence to religion, from the atheist, secular humanist to a devout background of a faith, either Christian or another world religion. What takes place in collective worship must take account of the varied backgrounds of the students (and staff) as well as of their ages and aptitudes.

In collective worship students will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels; some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be "at the threshold", interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings

- To provide regular reinforcement of the positive ethos of the school community
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- To provide an opportunity to consider the needs of others in our community and in the wider world
- To help young people to discover their place in the world
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship
- To enable young people to appreciate their worth and value, and to respect the integrity of all individuals
- To enable young people to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To provide an opportunity for young people to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local churches
- To encourage respect and care for creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences

### **Delivery**

Every house group will have one full assembly each week. For reasons of limited accommodation, it is only possible for one house group to have a full assembly each morning. On other mornings a collective activity is conducted in each tutor group. These activities may relate to any aspect of students' personal and educational development.

On an occasional basis, the whole school will assemble together to celebrate success or commemorate a significant event, for example a sports celebration assembly or an Armistice Day Service.

At the end of the Autumn Term, it is traditional for each House to hold its own Christmas celebration assembly.

An assembly rota is published half termly by Pastoral Lead Head of House detailing assembly locations and leaders. Leaders include the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of House, other staff, occasional visitors and students.

### **Record Keeping**

An assembly rota indicating themes is drawn up by the Head's P.A. Colleagues leading assemblies will let her know the themes either in advance or retrospectively in order to provide a complete record of assembly themes for each House on an annual basis.