



Collective Worship Policy

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Associated documents:			
Collective Worship Information for Staff			
Links to:			

Contents

Introduction	2
How this policy reflects our Christian vision ('Life in all its fullness' John 10:10).....	2
The right of withdrawal.....	2
A daily act of worship.....	2
Principles.....	2
Aims.....	3
Responsibility	4
Record Keeping	4
Monitoring and Evaluation	4
Review.....	4

Introduction

1. This policy has been drafted by the Assistant Principal for Christian Distinctiveness.
2. This policy is consistent with the school's Christian foundation and Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship and conforms with all current legislative and regulatory requirements regarding Collective Worship.

How this policy reflects our Christian vision

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Students participate in a daily act of worship that is inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually.

The right of withdrawal

As a Church of England school with a strong Christian ethos that underpins the whole of school life it is expected that all students desiring to study here will wish to participate fully in the collective worship that is offered. Notwithstanding this, the legal right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship remains.

A daily act of worship

Every student in the school participates in an act of Christian worship at some point within each school day. This may be within a tutor group or year group and may be as part of an assembly or separate and specific act of collective worship [currently known as Encounter]. Collective worship may take place in any part of the school site (including HSFC).

Principles

1. Through the corporate worship of God the school's mission is celebrated and advanced. The Governing Body recognises that Christian collective worship is a fundamental tool in the promotion of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

2. This policy recognises Governors' commitment to creating a school environment in which a diversity of opportunities for prayer and worship are available to students and staff in addition to collective worship, for example through the wider work of the School Chaplain and chaplaincy team, and through music and art.
3. Whilst reflecting the breadth of the Anglican tradition, collective worship is consistent with the practices and doctrines of the Church of England and with the aims and objectives of the National Society (CofE) for Promoting Religious Education.
4. The principle objective is to enable all worshippers of whatever tradition, faith or world view to reach the 'threshold of worship'. To achieve this all collective worship should be imaginative, inclusive, accessible, well and thoughtfully planned, and appropriate to the students, context and occasion.
5. A variety of students, staff, visiting clergy and external organisations should be involved in the creation, organisation and leadership of worship so as to provide students with a wide experience of what constitutes Christian worship and to provide students with the opportunity to grow in confidence in the expression of their own faith. External contributors to collective worship will be provided with a copy of the collective worship policy prior to visiting the school.
6. It is expected that all staff will actively demonstrate their support for the faith tradition of the school by participating in collective worship as their duties permit.

Aims

The core aims of collective worship at The National Church of England Academy are to:

1. Enable students and staff to explore and celebrate the diversity found in the worship traditions of the Church of England.
2. Provide opportunities for students and staff to engage with the cycle of the Christian year and to celebrate the key Christian festivals and saints' days.
3. Hold voluntary services of Holy Communion to provide all students and staff with the opportunity to be prepared to receive the Sacrament or a Blessing in accordance with their existing Church practices.
4. Help students and staff to explore and develop their own spirituality and faith in ways that respect the diversity of the school community without compromising the school's own faith tradition.
5. Encourage students to reflect upon the relevance of scripture and the doctrines and traditions of the Christian faith for their own lives, decisions, attitudes and behaviour.
6. Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship God with reverence and awe.
7. Use a wide variety of worship and music styles, methods, symbols, liturgies, vocabularies and resources to engage students as fully and as regularly as possible.
8. Through the regular use of Christian greetings and prayers, provide students with a framework of Christian devotion that they can call upon at times of need throughout their lives.
9. Reflect upon key issues of the day from a Christian perspective.
10. Reaffirm, strengthen and demonstrate core Christian values (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving).
11. Celebrate the God-given talents and gifts of each individual member of the school community acknowledging their uniqueness as people made in the image of God.
12. Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally nationally and globally.

13. Develop a sense of community within the school and foster a concern for the needs of others.

Responsibility

1. The Principal is responsible to the Governing Body to ensure that the legal requirements for collective worship are met.
2. The School Chaplain, and, during the vacancy, the Assistant Principal for Christian Distinctiveness, is responsible for overseeing the delivery of collective worship on a daily basis in partnership with staff responsible for SMSC and Christian ethos.
3. In conjunction with the Principal the School Chaplain, and, during the vacancy, the Assistant Principal for Christian Distinctiveness, is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities under this policy, and are trained and equipped to fulfill them.

Record Keeping

The School Chaplain and, during the vacancy, the Assistant Principal for Christian Distinctiveness, will maintain records of all major acts of collective worship that take place within the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship will be subject to the established QA practices operating within the school.

Review

The collective worship policy will be reviewed annually

