



St Laurence School

Policy on Collective Worship 2021

Introduction

The Governors ensure that Collective Worship plays a central part in the life of the School, expressing the school's Christian ethos and vision and promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students. St Laurence is an academy with distinctive joint foundations in the Salisbury Diocesan Educational Trust and the Lord Fitzmaurice Educational Foundation. The Governors uphold the object of the academy trust and believe that Collective Worship needs to be organised on the assumption that there are students with Christian faith but also students with other faiths and those with no faith. Collective Worship includes the wider tutorial programme, and its daily 'Breathing Time', as well as the regular weekly gatherings of Houses. Collective Worship is seen as an interactive and integral element of daily school life, consisting of the following key elements:

- Gathering
- Engagement
- Response
- Sending out

Framework

Collective Worship needs to be **spiritual** by, for example:

- enabling students to gather in an atmosphere of stillness, wonder and welcome and to reflect upon the deeper, spiritual side of life.
- providing an opportunity to engage with some of the great "why?" questions of life.
- offering an opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually.
- offering different ways of approaching these great mysteries, through an understanding of Christian values and within the context of Christian belief and practice, including the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, in particular.
- engaging with all the senses, and it may include silence, prayer, poetry, prose, music, dance, and the visual.

Collective Worship needs to be **inclusive** by, for example:

- involving all students in Years 7 – 13 on a regular basis and through relevant themes.
- being student centred and related to their age, experience and concerns.
- enabling students as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Approval: Community & Ethos Committee

Review: October 2022 (last updated October 2021)



- acknowledging and encouraging understanding of diversity and respecting a range of beliefs, including various religions, and humanitarian principles among students and staff alike.
- avoiding attempts to indoctrinate or proselytise.
- fostering a sense of community within and beyond the School.

Collective Worship needs to be **educational** by, for example:

- providing a learning experience of real quality, relating to fundamental issues and mysteries.
- enabling all students and adults to appreciate that people worship in different ways, including within the Christian faith.
- helping students and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world.
- being consistent with other school policies.
- fostering a sense of social justice and community – a “call to action”.
- evoking a response to, and spiritual awareness of the theme.

Roles and Responsibilities

The arrangements for Collective Worship are the responsibility of the Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher:

A member of the **Senior Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Head of SMSC**, is responsible for:

- co-ordinating the schedule and themes for Collective Worship in consultation with the Head of SMSC Education, the Spiritual Development Group and student representatives.
- developing links with local churches and voluntary organisations.
- issuing up to date notes of guidance to all speakers who contribute to the delivery of Collective Worship, whether visitors or members of staff and arranging training as appropriate.
- facilitating the on-going evaluation of impact and the annual programme of Collective Worship in accordance with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework and in collaboration with the named governor.

The **Governing Body** is responsible for ensuring that:

- the policy is implemented with the best use of staff and facilities in mind.
- the delivery of Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated by the nominated Governor, who will report back to the Full Governing Body.

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