



Collective Worship Policy

*What does the Lord require of me?
To act justly, To love kindly, To walk humbly (with your God).
Micah 6:8*

At St Edmund's Girls' School Collective Worship plays a significant part in the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of students, which in turn impacts on their readiness to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides students with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

Context

St Edmund's Girls' School is an academy limited by guarantee with its foundation in the Salisbury Diocesan Educational Trust. The trustees are obliged to uphold the object of the company and to the requirements of the academy's funding agreement:

"The Academy Trust shall make provision for the teaching of Religious Education and for a daily act of collective worship at the Academy."

St Edmund's will provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy's Christian faith. It will also reflect the other principal religions and those found in the local community.

Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective worship will:

- contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief;
- engage all students and help them to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions from the UK and worldwide;
- employ the school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and apply them to the Christian teachings and liturgy;
- celebrate the adoption of Micah 6:8 as a touchstone for the school's distinctive Christian character and mission for students and staff alike;
- explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those students with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others;
- approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, inspiration, appreciation, thankfulness, respect and reverence;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to students' everyday life and development;

- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the students as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community;
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance including festivals;
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity, ensuring that it does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The Practice of Collective Worship at St Edmund's

Collective worship is practised in several forms at St Edmund's.

- gatherings of year groups, key stage groups or houses, led by senior and middle leaders and, from time to time, other organisations and members of the clergy;
- tutorials led by group tutors and Heads of Houses;
- reflective activities as part of curriculum delivery either through subjects or, for example as part of flexible learning days;

Collective worship will:

- promote the Christian values and ethos that are embedded in all aspects of the school;
- in formal settings, adopt a gathering/engaging/responding/sending framework for worship;
- provide a clear spiritual and moral focus;
- promote reflective thought about faith, belief and the meaning of life;
- provide an opportunity for silent reflection and/or prayer;
- allow students to perform and participate in the planning and presentation of collective worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

We take our responsibility seriously to ensure that our Collective Worship is appropriate and relevant to young people. Individuals and organisations from outside the school are chosen carefully to ensure that the message given fits the Christian ethos of the school.

Monitoring and evaluation occurs through:

- Senior team peer observations of each other to quality assure.
- Senior team observations of Heads of House and outside agency assemblies.
- Student voice consultation.
- Heads of House 'drop in' records of tutor time.
- Senior team member reporting regularly to the governors' Curriculum Committee.
- Senior team discussions at senior leadership level and through line management of Heads of House to maintain consistency of quality and message.
- Governor participation in collective worship and tutor time.

Approval of Policy

Full Governing Board meeting 23rd March 2016

Date of review: March 2019