



Collective Worship Policy

Ranelagh School

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For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1.7)

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. For some students the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory. For those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, worship will be the natural response to faith, and a place where their deepest thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion with God and as a community.

Worship offers all students and others in our school community an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian foundation. It reflects our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. It will be Christian in character and reflect the Anglican foundation of the school.

Our collective worship provides students and staff with the opportunity to:

- worship God (based on a Trinitarian faith - Father, Son & Holy Spirit);
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals and seasons;
 - school values and achievements;
 - significant national/international events (Remembrance, WW1 Centenary etc)
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

In addition worship will:

- nurture spiritual growth by developing learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from our cultural heritage.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and in Church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and, within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and Easter.

Termly Holy Communion services are held at Holy Trinity Church in Bracknell and these are attended on a voluntary basis. Twice a year the Eucharist is also celebrated in our Sanctuary, located in the school hall. The first of these services is held in the Autumn Term for students in year 7 and their parents. It is organised to coincide with the relevant elements of the RE programme of study; it also provides an opportunity to welcome new students to the school and introduce them to the Common Worship order of Anglican worship. The second of these services is held on Founder's Day, on the first Saturday in July; this is an opportunity for members of the school community, past and present, to give thanks for the life and work of the school.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church community. Students are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are invited to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. A theme for the term, and a focus for each week, are published in advance. Leaders, including students, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the theme. Throughout their time at our school, students will encounter a wide variety of activities alongside elements of worship such as prayer and song. There is a weekly opportunity to share and reflect upon Bible readings and sung worship is a feature of both our Holy Communion services and our assemblies.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce students to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Students who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship. The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Governing Body and remain under constant review by a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every student every day

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents/carers who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.