

Stepney All Saints School



Collective Worship Policy

Committee Review: SLT

Ratified: Jun 2021

TBR: Jun 2025

SLT Responsible: Shiulee Begum

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

As a voluntary aided Church of England School our worship is rooted firmly in our Church of England tradition. We have a multi-faith intake and this is made up of a substantial number of students from the Muslim faith. As such, we mark festivals of other faiths and celebrate the spiritual and cultural diversity of our staff and students. Just as the whole curriculum promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all students, in the same way collective worship has an educational as well as a spiritual purpose.

Through school worship we provide opportunities for students and staff to develop spiritually. We encourage a sense of wonder and awe, a sense of pattern and purpose, a relationship with the natural world and awareness of the responsibilities and demands of community living. Through regular opportunities to reflect, students and staff are helped to be sensitive to loss, sadness and suffering and be aware of the choices that life involves.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES:

In our worship we aim to provide an enjoyable, inspiring and educational experience which relates to the life of the students and staff and connects with the school's Church tradition. Collective Worship should provide the school community with opportunities to: consider, explore, respond, worship, celebrate, participate and reflect. The key aims of collective worship are to:

- show reverence for God
- express and give direction to our experiences of awe, thankfulness, humility, adoration, dedication, hope and responsibility
- reflect the values of: respect, admiration, devotion, gratitude and commitment
- give expression to our common values and purpose
- provide experiences which strengthen attitudes and disposition so that those with a religious commitment may worship more adequately and the uncommitted may develop a capacity to approach the threshold of worship
- reflect on the character of God, the Trinitarian nature of Christian belief, and on the teachings of Christ and other religious founders and leaders
- encourage students and staff to develop an understanding of the nature of the world in which they live and appreciate the richness and diversity of their cultures and heritage.

STRATEGIES

- Collective Worship takes the form of our daily prayer and reflection, which is read out over our school public address system, and in our assemblies
- Collective Worship should enable students and staff to reflect, both as individuals and as members of the local, national and global community. It should provide opportunities for pupil and staff spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development and growth. It should raise awareness and encourage students to form their own opinions and judgments, confront important issues such as life and death, the purpose of life and lifetime choices, overcome prejudice and seek to discover the causes of social unrest and injustice and work towards a better and fairer order of society
- Students and staff participate in Whole School, Key Stage, Year and Tutor Group Assemblies as well as Services at St Dunstan's & St Botolph's Churches. These take place in person as well as virtually
- Staff who lead Collective Worship have access to regular training run both by the LDBS and in house.
- A whole school prayer schedule is published at the beginning of each year and reviewed by students and staff to improve effectiveness and participation further. Students and staff across the school are involved in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship.
- Students participation in Collective Worship involves, but is not limited to, the following:

- Students planning and leading an entire assembly
 - Students playing music as part of a performance in assembly
 - A drama performance or reading in an assembly
 - Students reading our daily reflection or prayer over the school address system
 - Involvement in prayer writing workshop to design one of our daily prayers
- Whole School, Key Stage & Year Assemblies are led by SLT and Heads of Year and other staff, but should involve students as much as possible. All assemblies end with our daily reflection and prayer
 - Worship Themes and Worship Resource Files are produced and updated regularly
 - Students and staff also participate in services such as the Eucharist led by clergy at St Dunstan's & St Botolph's Churches. Notable services include Kenton Day and the Christmas Carol Service
 - Prayer meetings are held by the Christian Union and the Muslim Union students supported by the lay Christian chaplain and lay Muslim chaplain. Whole school, interfaith and external events are also organized by the chaplains on occasions. Friday (Jumma) prayers are organized by the Muslim lay chaplain.
 - Local clergy and imams, and other visitors are invited to lead worship on occasions. These visitors are briefed on the school's vision and values, the school context, and will be supported by an appropriate member of the school's leadership team.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation and effectiveness of the school's Collective Worship is monitored by governors, chaplains and members of the senior leadership team through line management and SLT meetings. The provision is reviewed to ensure that collective worship continues to be inclusive and engaging. This review considers any feedback from students, parents, staff and governors.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Above all the school seeks to engage its community in Collective Worship that is inclusive, and without compulsion. In line with guidance from the Church of England, the school recognises that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship in schools, and so the school recognises the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship for parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. In the first instance, parents and students should write to their child's Head of Year expressing this wish, and a meeting will be held with parents to confirm their choice.