The Ellesmere Port
C of E College



Collective Worship Policy

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Approved by Head of School

Mr S Murphy

Approved by Chair of Governors:

Mr G Derby

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Aims and Objectives

At the Ellesmere Port Church of England College, we ensure collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Our aim is that pupils are able to spiritually grow through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. We aim to ensure that pupils understand that Christians worship in different ways and the varied liturgical festivals are part of the College life. We aim that our pupils appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). We work with our local Church in partnership effectively, in order to develop provision for collective worship.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- enable pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity.
- found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the threshold of worship in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 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.
- use celebration, silence, being still, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging His presence, reflecting upon His character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- raise awareness through collective worship of the ultimate "big" questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise our Christian values of Forgiveness, Integrity, Humility, Hope, Wisdom, Justice, Trust, Service, Endurance, Courage, Honesty, Respect, Gratitude, Compassion and Thankfulness.
- celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community though the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.
    - Foster a clear understanding of a wider understanding of ourselves, others, the world and God.
    - Develop pupils' ability to speak out against injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for students to:

- explore awe and wonder: celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of life.
- share what is meaningful and significant to them, including aspects of life that are more challenging and difficult;

- within our Be More curriculum, to have experiences which are age appropriate so that all pupils can flourish.
- in the Chapel, classroom and Theatre, to have time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space.
- experience a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story, and give pupils the opportunity to experience these at their own level.
- have an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced.
- participate invitationally and be inclusive at all times.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School, key senior teachers, Pastoral Team and the Chaplaincy. Our Monitoring for Achievement process allows us to do this:

- classroom written observations both curriculum and pastoral.
- observing pupils and pupil voice.
- QA of liturgical collective worship, observations and snapshots of collective worship and providing feedback.
- seeking feedback from pupils, staff and parents.
- the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School, key Senior leaders and the Chaplaincy team will be the main evaluators in conjunction with the Chair of Govs.
- formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually as detailed in the school improvement plan.

Review

The Executive Head Teacher and Head of School, Chaplaincy team, Governors and staff will review this policy every year. All weekly Collective Worship is agreed and calendared in JUNE for the next academic year.

Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A twice daily act of collective worship is held for all pupils regardless of their background, culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all students unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Management of Collective Worship

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School and Governing body of a school to ensure a twice daily act of collective worship takes place. At the Ellesmere Port Church of England College, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to Mrs Connolly.

They plan themes, produce materials for Academic Review time worship, invite and liaise with visiting speakers and keep a record of the content of each programmed act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation are the responsibility of the key senior teachers.

Responsibilities

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school Theatre, Chapel or the classroom. Each year group will have an act of worship once a week. On the remaining days worship will take place within Academic Review, period 1 and period 5 daily.

Key Christian festivals: Christmas and Easter formal worship services are held for all pupils. These are planned and delivered in conjunction with the local Vicar at St Thomas' and All Saints. We also utilise the church for a welcome service every year.

Conclusion

At the Ellesmere Port Church of England College, collective worship is highly valued, and every effort is made to ensure that all Pupils and staff take an active part in a high-quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at EPC we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

The Right of Withdrawal

If there are any pupils whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the pupil's parents. However, students will still have a clear understanding of the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the vision and moral virtues we have. They will understand that the moral virtues are applicable to all regardless of faith. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.