



**St Edward's
School**

Unity - Achievement - Faith

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed and Approved by Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes Committee

On: 13th June 2024

Reviewed and Ratified by the Full Governing Body

On: 11th July 2024

Next full review date: Spring 2027

SLT are responsible for oversight of this policy's implementation

MAY WE BE ONE

in purpose – **educating** for life in all its fullness

in faith – **encountering** God who lives among us, calling us to unity

in dignity – **nurturing** confidence and maturity

in community – **striving together** for justice, love and peace

At the heart of our school is our Christian ethos, supported by the riches of the traditions of both the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England. Our mission statement calls us to unity, and therefore we reach out to share our common faith with other Christian traditions. As a school we share our Gospel values with those of all faiths, and none – all are welcome in our school. Through collective worship, daily tutor reflection, annual retreats, and other means we invite every member of our community to encounter God, who lives among us, and calls us to unity – unity as human people, and wholeness within ourselves. Our worship as a school always aims to lift hearts and minds to God, inviting reflection on how we can work together to build a fairer world, of justice, love and peace.

Introduction

As a Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Aided comprehensive school, St Edward's has its distinctive character laid out in the School Covenant, and Mission Statement. Worship of God together is seen as part of our everyday lives in school and all members of the school community should have the opportunity to experience prayer, worship and reflection. We all need to be helped on our personal journey of faith, with Christ as our example and the Holy Spirit as our guide. We endeavour to 'do nothing apart which we can do together to serve your purposes of Justice, Love and Peace.'

The school community comprises of students, staff, governors, parents and carers. There is also a community link to the parishes of our students, staff and families.

The aims of our collective worship:

- to provide regular opportunities to lift hearts and minds to God in worship.
- to explore relevant themes that unite and divide humanity, whilst following the Liturgical Year.
- to facilitate the deepening of spiritual awareness and development in those present.
- to provide daily acts of worship, that facilitate prayer and reflection.
- to encourage students to participate in and to help organise the acts of worship.
- to enable all to participate in worship as a meaningful experience, shared activity and allowing a variety of responses.
- to enable those of different Christian traditions to share together and learn from each other; and foster sensitivity to the beliefs, values and practices of others within the school community.
- to reflect upon the meaning and purpose of human existence within a developing relationship between human beings and God.
- to develop an understanding of the language and nature of Christian worship.
- to explore and develop their own spirituality and widen their personal response and commitment.

- to reflect the aims of the school, celebrate the values and worth of the school community and the uniqueness of individuals within the community.
- to celebrate special occasions and show appreciation of the gifts and talents of the school community.

Context of collective worship

Collective worship at St Edward's takes place in a range of settings, in order to provide different styles and opportunities for experiencing Christian worship. Activities include:

- Each week, every year group meets together to have the opportunity for joint Collective worship. This is planned on an annual basis, with links to the Church's year and themes. This is led by both members of staff, students and visitors.
- Tutor groups meet together for prayer and reflection as part of tutor time on four days of the week. Each tutor is responsible for ensuring that this moment of reflection takes place and has a rota of collective worship on display. Each tutor room has a focal point of a cross/crucifix to aid in their times of prayer. Reflections are led by both members of staff and students through the week.
- Weekly reflection questions are included within the prayer diary and reflection journals are available for tutors to use to gather these.
- Acts of collective worship to celebrate particular occasions are seen as essential points in the school year. These vary from year to year, but typically include Advent, Christmas (including Epiphany), Lent and Holy week.
- Collective Worship is reviewed regularly and includes feedback from students as well as tutors, SLT and Directors of Learning.
- Each term we have a whole school gathering in order to join collectively in prayer.
- The school regularly holds Eucharistic worship in school and this alternates between the Roman Catholic and Church of England traditions.

Leadership, management, legal responsibilities and governance

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship must take place on a daily basis for all registered pupils. All acts of worship in a voluntary aided school must be according to the Trust Deed of the school and can be of a denominational nature. At St. Edward's we seek to recognise and affirm the different Christian traditions from which the members of the community come.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship under the 1998 Schools Standards and Framework Act. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should contact their child's tutor.

It is the responsibility of the Governing body to:

- Ensure that the policy meets the requirements of the law and the expectations of SIAMS and Section 48 processes.
- Work with the school to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship across the school community.
- Review and update the policy regularly.

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to:

- Ensure the policy is implemented so that the aims are achieved.
- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Work with the governing body to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship across the school community.

It is the responsibility of the link member of senior leadership team to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Work with youth workers, local clergy and others involved in chaplaincy and spiritual development to co-ordinate, plan and deliver collective worship.
- Support tutors in the delivery of the policy and offer INSET opportunities where necessary.
- Encourage student leadership and participation in collective worship.
- Work with the governing body and students to monitor and evaluate collective worship.

It is the responsibility of Directors of Learning and Year Leaders to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Support tutors in their contribution towards to the collective worship policy.
- Monitor and evaluate collective worship within their respective year teams.

It is the responsibility of tutors to:

- Act as a role model in the delivery of collective worship.
- Ensure that students experience daily opportunities for prayer, worship and reflection and that a rota for this is displayed within the tutor room.
- Ensure students' experience of collective worship is varied through the use of a weekly pattern.
- Engage in the system of evaluating collective worship.

Policy Review

The Governing body will review this policy every three years and associated procedures to ensure its continuing appropriateness and effectiveness. The review will take place in consultation with the headteacher, staff and parents and carers.