



Collective Worship Policy July 2019

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Ratified by Board of Governors

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1 Rationale

- 1.1 All maintained schools are required to provide daily collective worship for registered students (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, the precise nature depending on the family background, ages and abilities of the students. We accept as a suitable definition for worship:

"Worship has to do with worth and worthiness. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the 'worth'ship of certain realities and values, held to be of central importance to the community which worships. The act of worshipping renews the meaning of these realities and values for the community, helping each of its members to grasp them personally."

Assemblies for the 1990s (Roy Blatchford 1992).

- 1.2 For Priestlands as a community, assemblies are one of the few times that large numbers of students are together. Therefore they are also important because they provide an opportunity to underline the school's ethos.

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:
- worship God
 - reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
 - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
 - promote community cohesion and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination
 - consider spiritual and moral issues, especially those related to the students present
 - respond to the worship offered
- 2.2. In addition, collective worship at Priestlands, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:
- strive to be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
 - include a variety of elements at different times
 - involve the students

3 Structure and Organisation

- 3.1. In the typical school week all students will experience the following acts of collective worship:
- a whole school or key stage assembly
 - a year group assembly
 - two tutor group periods of reflection using the Thoughts for the Day provided and linked to the weekly calendared theme
- 3.2. A list of weekly themes for Thought for the Day will be compiled to aid planning of assemblies around important events and festivals. This will also enable curriculum areas to respond to assembly themes and vice versa.
- 3.3. Continuity and progression to be ensured by use of an assembly calendar.



4 Content

- 4.1. The content of the assemblies should reflect the objectives by including the following:
- a broadly based Christian theme that reflects and will develop the school's ethos
 - a time for prayer, personal thought and/or reflection
 - rewards and achievements will be given a high profile to encourage positive attitude towards success
 - where possible, music or videos being played as students enter at the beginning of the assembly

5 Staffing

- 5.1. Assemblies will be taken by a wide variety of staff including the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and other staff volunteers according to the rota devised at the beginning of each term:
- where appropriate visiting speakers may be invited at the discretion of the Headteacher
 - form tutors will be expected to organise their tutor groups to take one year group assembly per year; Heads of Year will liaise closely with tutors to offer support
 - Heads of Year will be encouraged to take assemblies with other year groups and KS4 students to be invited to take part in KS3 assemblies to foster "Whole School" ethos
 - Any colleagues not wishing to attend assemblies as a matter of conscience should see the Headteacher

6 Conduct

- 6.1. For whole school and key stage assemblies, as a matter of commonsense, students will not be expected to enter the Sports Hall in silence; they will be expected to respond swiftly to a cue for silence shortly before the assembly begins
- 6.2. Unless invited to do so by the speaker, there should be no talking amongst students during the assembly
- 6.3. Heads of Year will:
- oversee the entrance of students
 - deal with any latecomers or students who misbehave
- 6.4. Tutors will:
- register their group and then escort them to assemblies to ensure they arrive promptly and enter in a quiet orderly fashion
 - remain close to their tutor group to encourage participation and maintain good behaviour
- 6.5. Students will:
- sit in their tutor groups
 - if late, sit at the back and report to the Head of Year at the end of the assembly; they will be expected to report to the Head of Year and serve a breaktime / lunchtime detention

7 Thoughts for the Day

- 7.1. For two days each week, form tutors will be provided with Thoughts for the Day. One of these will include a prayer; the other will feature a moment for reflection. Content will be closely planned around festivals, events and PSHCE.



8 Special Services

- 8.1. On at least two occasions each year (Christmas and Easter), the school will organise formal services. These may feature music, dance, drama, video and the involvement of a guest speaker from a local church.

9 Right of Withdrawal

- 9.1. We expect all students to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attendance and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the student during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.
- 9.2. The Headteacher will keep a record of all students who withdraw from collective worship.

10 Review and Evaluation

- 10.1. This policy will be reviewed in the summer of 2022 or in the light of any changes to legislation or guidance or proposals to change relevant school policy.

