



Wadham School

Collective Worship Policy

Who is Responsible?	Governing Body
Statutory Policy?	No
Review Timescale	Every 3 years
Approval Date	October 2019
Next Review	October 2022

Signed

Date:

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a Church of England school, collective worship at Wadham is seen as an opportunity for our school to come together and participate in religious praise and thanksgiving. It aims to support every child and young person to be educated for belonging, relationships and respect. It will seek to aid a growing sense of achievement and aspiration and thus contribute to a developing sense of hope which is at the heart of our school values.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and experience of music. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Students will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Students will thus be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Objectives

Collective worship at Wadham School:

- offers space and stillness at the start of the day and is pivotal in the life of the school
- allows individuals to explore feelings and emotions and to develop inner awareness;
- enables individuals and groups of staff and students to celebrate together and to share their interests, concerns and reflections;
- enable the joys and sorrows of those present to be reflected upon and shared in a way which is otherwise not possible in school;
- offers insights into religious and other beliefs and commitments in an open way;
- will help our community to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience;
- helps students ponder on the many ultimate questions life presents and know that others of all ages ponder these too;
- provides an opportunity for all those involved to come close to God and reflect on the most important directions and values for their lives;
- is an opportunity for all in the school to share and reinforce the values the school seeks to live by;
- fosters a spirit of community in the school as a whole;
- will, where appropriate and relevant, use materials and themes designed to help students and staff understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Frequency

Currently, each student at Wadham attends an act of worship on at least two occasions a week. A major development this year will be the opportunity for reflection in tutor groups on the other days, through materials being developed by the Chaplain. Students will also experience spiritual awareness on many occasions through learning opportunities in the curriculum.

There are special acts of worship at or near Armistice Day, Christmas and Easter

Organisation of Collective Worship

- The Headteacher draws up the rota of those who will lead the worship each week. Generally these will be members of senior staff, Directors of Learning and members of the local clergy.
- The leader of the worship should make every effort to transform the worshipping space into a place where reflection and respectful response can take place. This might be done by:
 - the use of music to enter and leave
 - the use of a table or lectern as a focal point
 - making the transition from assembly to worship clear by, for example, careful choice of words to explain that is what is happening
- Resources should be as varied as possible using a variety of prayers, readings and music; some acts of worship should be lively whilst others are more contemplative;
- Preparation should be made sufficiently in advance to enable arrangements to be made for any special equipment;
- The involvement of students is encouraged wherever appropriate;
- The maximum time taken for the whole act of worship should normally be ten minutes with notices and presentations placed according to the discretion of the person taking the worship and kept to a minimum. As students attend worship following a short tutor period it is expected that most, if not all, of the notices for the day have already been given.

Withdrawal

There is provision in the Education Acts for parents of students in Y9-11 (and the student themselves in Y12 & 13) to request withdrawal from collective worship. Upon receiving that request, the Headteacher will seek to ascertain if there is any misunderstanding or confusion about the nature or purpose of our collective worship, so that necessary reassurances can be given. If following this discussion, the request remains it must be complied with.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Those leading worship are included in this. Those who lead worship will meet once a term to talk about what they do and to support and guide each other. This is led by the Headteacher. In addition training offered by the Diocese will be used, if appropriate.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring the impact of worship will form part of the programme of student voice during the year and will feedback in to the development process. This will take place in the Spring/Summer Term. Foundation governors will be involved in formulating how this is done and receive a summary of findings.