



Collective Worship Policy

1. **The Trust Deed**

Our 1972 trust deed asks that the School's aims and purposes are shaped by and consistent with the principles and practice of the Church of England. What follows is not only consistent with that trust deed but also serves to bring our community closer to God.

2. **Introduction**

Worship is central to the life and purposes of the School and is one of the School's most distinctive features. Each of the School's Values has a direct correlation with the aims of worship, as worship revolves around a relationship with God and a relationship with other people. The summary of the School's Values and the aim of worship are both expressed in the Christian concept of love. Worship means very little if it does not lead to the practical outworking of love in the School and wider community.

3. **Aim of School Worship**

We aim to encourage members of the School community to be both more committed worshippers and also worshippers who experience and appreciate many varieties of worship, reflecting the God who reveals himself in so many different ways. School worship is also an educational experience and should contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.

4. **Scope of Worship**

We promote faith in Christ and part of the means of achieving this is to provide each student with experience of life within a wider Christian family. Use, therefore, is being made of a wide range of acts of worship: individual, collective and corporate, voluntary and compulsory. Worship reflects the diversity of the School community, one of whose characteristics is attendance at over 200 churches of different traditions.

5. **Resources for Worship**

There should be a chaplaincy service. Chaplaincy should include the spiritual development of the whole school community, linking with St Mary Redcliffe Church and student and staff pastoral care and counselling (from a Christian perspective but independent of the management of the School).

The School ensures that it has set aside in its budget enough financial resources for the running of worship and that it encourages bids to relevant bodies in and out of School to supplement the budget for development purposes.

The School gives guidance on resourcing, planning and other issues relating to worship. Such guidance is given by those with a responsibility for worship, including members of the School Leadership Team (SLT), the chaplain and the heads of house.

6. **Daily Worship**

The daily act of collective worship is of paramount importance to the life of the School. This takes the form normally of either an assembly or of an act of worship in the tutor room. The School encourages students to lead worship as appropriate and to suggest visitors (both clerical and lay) to be invited. Teaching staff are required to arrange, but not necessarily to lead, the daily act of worship. The 'Weekly Worship' section of the school website contains material suitable for the leading of worship.

7. **Eucharists and Full-School Services**

The houses and the sixth form have regular Eucharists (following authorised Anglican formats), led by a variety of clergy. The school encourages active participation by students in these services. The whole School community should be involved in our worship and governors, parents/carers, former scholars and friends are invited to participate as appropriate.

The School has special links with St Mary Redcliffe church. The school builds on those links by having suitable services for a variety of school groups (e.g. students, staff, parents/carers, leavers) at various times of the School and church year.

8. **Voluntary Worship**

There are many opportunities for voluntary worship, ranging from Lent Eucharists to weekly staff prayers to Christian unions to voluntary sixth form worship to a beginning of year service for parents/carers and to various prayer-groups.

There are Harvest and Christmas School charities and Lent House charities. Where possible, the nominated charities should be Christian ones and should involve more than just raising a sum of money.

9. **Planning and Reviewing Worship**

There is to be a worship committee of staff and nominated student representatives, which meets regularly under the chairmanship of the School's director of worship (Assistant Head (community)). The committee also includes the chaplain(s) and reviews and plans both the compulsory and voluntary worship and also coordinates the School's charity work.

Internal monitoring of worship is done by the School Leadership Team and by the heads of house. Targets for developing School worship appear at appropriate times in the School Improvement Plan.

The School's foundation governors have a special responsibility for being informed about and monitoring the school's worship and receive regular reports on how the policy is being implemented.

10. **Christian Nature Of Worship**

Acts of worship at this church school are Christian in their character but account is to be taken of the other faiths represented in the School and our society insofar as they can contribute to the understanding and practice of religion. No act of worship should compromise the essential Christian beliefs on the Trinity, the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible.

Students of faiths other than Christian are expected to respect the Christian life of the School. Explanation of this is given in school publicity and in the Alive Accord (Home School Agreement). Any issues arising in practice after admission are dealt with on an individual basis by the relevant head of house in liaison with the Director of Worship, the chaplains and the foundation governors, as appropriate. It is hoped that such students will be able to contribute to the teaching of the School on world faiths and also to enrich the worship life of the School by offering their experiences/insights on appropriate occasions, e.g. festivals. We are happy to respond to requests from members of faiths other than Christian for provision of, for example, special spaces for worship at lunchtime.

11. **Right of Withdrawal**

We respect the right enshrined in law for parents/carers to request that their child does not attend worship, but we would be surprised (and disappointed) were any parent/carers to do so. Teaching staff, in their conditions of service, must ensure that a daily act of worship is provided for their tutor-group but may exercise their right not to lead it.

12. **Sixth Form**

This policy applies in full to the main school. It is recognised that the Sixth Form has a more open admissions policy and different procedures for the start of the day. Consequently, the intentions of this policy apply fully to the sixth form but the arrangements for its application are outworked termly rather than daily.