



# Collective Worship Policy

*'Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD'*

Psalm 150:6

## **Rationale**

We have a daily time of collective worship because we place a high value on the holistic growth of our students. This value is informed by the Bible's teaching of humans as tripartite beings- spirit, soul, and body.

"And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entirely, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (ERV/Good News.)

The main objective for our daily collective worship, whether meeting in small mentor groups or larger house or year groups is to foster growth in these three areas (reflecting our tripartite nature):

## **Spiritually (Spirit)**

Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through encountering the person of Jesus through the teachings of the Bible and deepening understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian God- through times of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.

## **Morally (Soul)**

Explore the school's vision/mission (John 10:10; glorifying God through outstanding and enjoyable education) and how that underpins shared moral values such as compassion, integrity, courage, gratitude and service.

## **Socially (Body)**

Challenge pupils and staff to reflect on opportunities to put faith into action. These should include opportunities to serve and care for those within our school community, and then extending to our local community and to national and international charities and causes.

Collective Worship is a unique part of school life at Saint Cecilia's because of its 'warm fires and open doors approach' The warm fires is a metaphor for the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart whilst the open doors imagery captures both the approach the chaplain seeks to take with students and staff as well as the invitation that is given for all to engage with collective worship and the wider opportunities provided in a way that is comfortable for them. It is a space where everyone can be a learner and everyone can a teacher.

### **Pattern of Collective worship**

The Collective Worship rota is organised by the School Chaplain and delivered by mentors, Year Leaders (YL), House Leaders (HL), and the Senior Leadership Team. Weekly themes are planned to reflect the Church's calendar, school ethos, as well as national and local events.

All pupils and students will experience collective worship at the end of each school day (2.50pm-3.10pm), either in their House groups, Year groups or Mentor groups. Worship finishes with prayer and/or a collective reading of 'The Grace' prayer.

The Chaplain provides relevant resources to mentors, YLs and HLs to inform their planning and delivery of collective worship. This ensures themes and topics impact the day-to-day life of the whole school community.

The school aims to avoid scheduling activities that mean pupils regularly miss the opportunity join periods of reflection and/or prayer.

### **Withdrawal from Collective worship**

The school will provide a daily act of collective worship attended by all pupils, except those whose parents have exercised their legal right to withdraw their children. The Governing Body is responsible for the provision of the daily collective worship in consultation with the Headteacher. It will be explicitly Christian in character, enabling pupils to develop an appreciation of the variety and styles of worship found in the diversity of liturgical traditions of the Worldwide Anglican Church. The collective worship will also reflect the multi-cultural nature of the school community and acknowledge that children and staff from other faith communities, and none, share equal status with those from a Christian tradition.

### **Special days and Acts of Remembrance**

Seasonal events are marked by special acts of Collective Worship e.g. Christmas, Remembrance Day, Easter and the beginning and end of terms.

In addition, once a term, there will be an opportunity for all students to participate in 'Worship in the Community' by visiting the Churches in our local community. These will be planned around Christmas, Easter and Pentecost; providing pupils and students and opportunity, to develop an understanding of the different Church of England traditions, as well as gain a deeper understanding of those special festivals. Holy Communion will also be offered in school to Christian students and staff who want this.

### **Evaluation and Monitoring of Collective Worship**

The views of students, staff and visitors about Collective Worship are collected by the Chaplain on a regular basis. The Collective Worship Policy and its impact are discussed and assessed by the SIAMS Lead Teacher and SIAMs Working Party, which includes the Headteacher, Chaplain, CTL for RE, and members of the Senior Leadership Team. The Faith Committee and Full Governing Body will review this policy every three years.

| <b>Action</b>      | <b>Committee</b>                 | <b>Date</b>  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Review and Approve | Faith Committee (Approve at FGB) | January 2022 |
| Next Review        | Faith Committee                  | January 2025 |

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