



POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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Responsibility: Curriculum, Learning and Teaching Committee

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CLYST VALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Assemblies and Collective Worship: Principles

- The requirements for collective worship are specified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' and DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'.
- This Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy reflects the current legislation and statutory requirements. It seeks to ensure that requirements are met, albeit within the constraints imposed by the physical limitations of the College, with only one suitable assembly space which can be used in all weathers.
- Assemblies and collective worship both support and strengthens what we aim to do as a Rights Respecting School, including our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. All of this is relevant to Christianity and other religions, as is the process of reflection.
- The act of collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented. Our assemblies should reflect the spirit of this aim of being inclusive, educational and broadly curriculum based, with a strong emphasis on the *values* of Christianity and other religions. Therefore, assembly themes will address social, moral spiritual and cultural issues.
- Assemblies will also be topical, with a sense of occasion where appropriate: for example, a consideration of key points in the calendar such as Easter, Christmas, Holocaust Day, Remembrance Day, the UN Charter of Human Rights.
- Assemblies will also be used for praising students in a variety of ways: awards, prizes, certificates, public "thank you"s.

Aims of Assemblies and Collective Worship

We aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Give students the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics
- Respond and reflect on religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not, and in so doing promote community cohesion
- Encourage positive and virtuous behaviours, for instance good attendance, behaviour, commitment, dedication, resilience

Delivery and Patterns of Assembly

- The only space available for larger gatherings is the College's Main Hall, which is also used for dining, PE and formal exams. However, to maximise alternative arrangements for holding assemblies and acts of collective worship, other venues

include the Sports Hall, the amphitheatre, the Post-16 common room, Dance and Drama studios. It must be recognised that these venues serve other functions, may not be available at all times, some do not all have the capacity for a whole Year or School group, and in the former two cases are weather-dependent.

- Monday to Wednesday. Each School has an assembly in the Main Hall by an agreed rota. The Head of School will lead the assembly, or coordinate it if there is another speaker.
- Wednesday. The assembly for Sixth Form students is held weekly on Wednesday.
- Thursday and Friday. These days are used for further School assemblies, or assemblies for year groups on a particular theme or issue. These assemblies will be led by a variety of members of staff and/or visitors.
- End of Term Assemblies, December and July. Whole College Assemblies are held, led by the Principal.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL

- The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- A designated member of staff is responsible for planning the fortnightly themes. This may be the RRS Coordinator, Head of Beliefs & Values, a Pastoral Leader, or a group.
- All Form Tutors promote the fortnightly themes in tutor time. When students are not in assembly, they follow a programme of appropriate activities which reflect RRS strands.
- Teachers are required to attend assemblies appropriate to them unless they have formally withdrawn from the collective worship element by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Principal.
- Education Support Staff who are supporting students are also expected to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the College, the College must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

MONITORING

- The Principal, members of the SLT and Heads of School have operational oversight of the conduct and effectiveness of assemblies and collective worship.
- The Curriculum, Learning and Teaching Committee of the Governing Body has responsibility for monitoring this Policy.