



The Abbey School
A Business and Enterprise Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Contents

Aims.....	3
Principles of Good Practice.....	3
Personnel.....	3
Organisation & Content.....	4
Remembrance	4
Christmas and Easter	4
Christmas Carol Service	4
Definition of 'Worship' in the School Context	5
Rights of withdrawal.....	5

Aims

Collective Worship at The Abbey aims to provide:

- The opportunity for students to be made aware of religious beliefs and practices within a broadly Christian framework.
- A time for reflection.
- A time to explore individual beliefs.
- A sense of community.
- An appreciation of others.
- To uphold the principles of 'every child matters'.
- A time to establish and reinforce the school's values and ethos.
- A time to explore moral issues reinforced by Christian principles.
- A time for awareness of and celebration of differences.
- A time for challenging and broadening spiritual development.
- A time for celebrating success.
- A time to reinforce positive attitudes.
- A time to reinforce on-line safety.
- A time to reinforce British Values.
- A time to celebrate and discuss SMSC.

Principles of Good Practice

In principle, as well as in practice, Collective Worship is an activity from which all gain and to which all can contribute, regardless of personal religious faith or non-religious viewpoints. Collective Worship at The Abbey, respects the integrity of all present, and is seen as part of the whole school curriculum. It is an intentional learning experience which is relevant to the needs of the students and allows an invaluable opportunity for reflection, celebration and response. The tone and ambience of all assemblies are both crucial and they reflect the ethos of The Abbey School.

In compliance with current legislation, the school aims to provide an opportunity for students to be involved in an act of Collective Worship or period of reflection, daily, through Key Stage, Year, House and Form assemblies.

Personnel

Key Stages: Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers.

Year Groups: Head of Post-16/Heads of Year/SLT

House Assemblies: Senior House Leader, Deputy House Leader

Tutor Groups: Form Tutors

Students have an opportunity to be involved in all of the above acts of Collective Worship. On a termly basis, their level of involvement includes being a musician, a choir member, a reader and as a member of a group leading an act of Collective Worship. Outside speakers and local vicars are invited into the school to lead assemblies, annually.

Organisation & Content

Themes are used as a guide to linking the experiences of the students with the broad traditions of Christian belief. These themes are listed separately and provide a school-wide focus for 'Key Stage, year and form assemblies' each week.

An assembly rota is published every term and includes details of venues, target group and assembly taker.

Guidance is given to Form Tutors in the form of 'Thematic Assembly timetable.'

A wealth of Assembly material is available e.g. 'The Secondary Assembly File' to assist Senior Staff and Key Stage Leader/Heads of Year in the preparation of assemblies.

Interactive assemblies are encouraged and full use of the 'white board technology' is an ongoing key focus for assemblies, which may have a religious content.

The School Council prepare and lead Collective Worship on specific themes and events, e.g. charity fundraising events and keep students informed of their role and main focus for the year.

Remembrance: A formal Remembrance Service is held in November to commemorate those men and women who lost their lives serving their countries.

Christmas and Easter: These two major Christian festivals are celebrated in school. The act of Collective Worship is formal and includes readings, prayers or carols as appropriate to the season.

Christmas Carol Service: Year 7 attend the School Carol Service at The Parish Church in Faversham. Parents, Carers and Governors are also invited and is led by the Reverend.

Definition of 'Worship' in the School Context

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation and in the absence of any such definition it should be taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning. This is, - it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. However, worship in schools will necessarily be of different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'Collective Worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

Although not defined in legislation, we recognise that in our acts of Collective Worship, we encourage students to value the worth of the school community as well as the wider community. Therefore, acts of Collective Worship are related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

The majority of acts of Collective Worship reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but are non-denominational. Regard is taken of students' family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes.

Rights of withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from RE and/or Collective Worship but need to notify the headteacher in writing. Teachers' rights are also safeguarded.