

Collective Worship Policy



Proverbs 18:15

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

The Governors are committed to supporting the school in its endeavours and to ensuring that this policy is achieved in the light of its vision,

Derby Cathedral School is a community that welcomes students, families and visitors of all faiths and none. The diversity and richness of such a family brings depth and a vibrancy to our core. Underpinning and permeating our community are fundamental Christian values, of which we are proud. In line with the teachings of the Church of England we ask;

“for individuals to be the best they can be”.

We ask that all stakeholders of Derby Cathedral School uphold this philosophy through

their ACTIONS,

their ASPIRATIONS,

and their ACHIEVEMENTS.

Through our curriculum, our enrichment opportunities, our pastoral House programme, our guidance and our role modelling, we aim to enable all members of our community to fulfill and exceed their potential.

Policy Status	Date	Chair of Governors	Review Date
Approved by LGB	17/10/2019		Autumn Term 20

Collective Worship Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of the act of Collective worship is to provide an opportunity for members of the school community to respond to the things of worth. Worship is a basic human activity in which everyone can share in his or her own way, observe or participate. For some it will be seen as a response to God, or at least as a pointing to Him, but without being limited to that which is practiced by any particular faith group.

Aims

Collective worship will aim to:

1. foster a sense of fellowship by bringing students together to participate in the experiences of the immediate and wider community;
2. offer an invitation to all present to explore, extend, share and deepen the level of experience;
3. share together emotions such as love, delight, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, forgiveness, reverence;
4. celebrate in the excitement and beauty of life and living;
5. provide moments of wonder and awe, for truth and for facing the harsher realities of life;
6. give opportunity to express humility, weariness, worry and an admission of need;
7. allow positive reflection on success and failure in an open, honest and sensitive climate;
8. encourage expressions of determination to do one's best;
9. help individuals respond to their own lives in ways significant to them in the wider community;
10. create an atmosphere in which one has the opportunity for silent reflection, response, inner response and active participation.

Principles of Collective Worship

- Collective worship should respect the integrity of all students, of adults and of faiths or life-stances. There will be no room for indoctrination. The approach should be to allow for, and encourage, students to make a variety of intellectual and emotional responses on each occasion. No person present should need to feel compromised in any way by involvement in the occasion.
- Collective worship should be shaped to the needs of the school. Staff and students should have the opportunity to "own" acts of collective worship.
- Collective worship should be for all no matter what their personal religious faith or non-religious life-stance.
- Collective worship should be a sense of occasion. This is engendered by positive preparation, effective organisation and varied resourcing.
- Collective worship should be educational.
- Collective worship should be integral to the curriculum.

- Collective worship should foster the spiritual, moral and cultural.
- Collective worship requires wide-ranging contributions with the participation of students in leading roles. Students of all ages become more engaged in events led by other students e.g. drama, role-play, reading, music or dance.

Arrangements for Collective Worship:

Collective worship will take place daily, where possible for all students. Students will be involved in a minimum of one formalised collective worships (School Hall) per week; one house group based, and one year group based. Form groups will worship separately for the remaining days. Where collective worship is based in tutor rooms, colleagues are provided with stimulus material by either their respective Head of House (in due course) or a member of the SLT.

There will be occasions where Year 11 students are subjected to fewer acts of daily collective worship, this will be for one of the following reasons;

- a) Tutor time is being utilised by a curriculum area for targeted intervention, with the sole aim of raising academic attainment.
- b) The timings of externally scheduled exams necessitates utilising the time nominally allocated for collective worship.

Leadership of Collective Worship:

The acts of Collective worship will be led by one of the following:

- the HeadTeacher
- a Deputy or Assistant HeadTeacher
- a pastoral leader
- volunteers from amongst the staff of the school
- visitors from the local clergy or faith communities, including the School Chaplain
- visitors from other non-religious organisations
- groups of students.
- externally agreed visitors from charities, the community or businesses.
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Coordination and Management of Collective Worship:

A nominated member of the Senior Leadership Team will coordinate and manage the acts of collective worship.

Format

Where possible acts of Collective Worship will be seated, it is recognised however that in most instances the number of students meeting together will make this difficult on occasions.

No specific pattern will be dictated to the act of worship. Leaders will be free to vary the content and format using different approaches. It is however anticipated that acts of collective worship will allow for personal reflection / prayer as a matter of course.

The school will make provision through its budget to enable acts of Collective Worship to be adequately resourced.

Arrangements for Students Withdrawn

Under the 1944 Education Act and confirmed by the Education Reform Act 1988 parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Collective worship.

Requests for withdrawal should be made to the Headteacher in writing. Those students will be supervised in the Learning Resource Centre during the act of worship.

Withdrawal by staff

Under the 1944 Education Act, confirmed by the Education Reform Act 1988 teachers (and HeadTeacher) have the right, on grounds of conscience, to withdraw from participation in collective worship or from any particular act of collective worship.

Members of staff wishing to exercise this right should do so in writing to the Headteacher. Members of staff withdrawing in this manner may be used for other supervisory duties.