



## King Edward VI School

# Collective Worship Policy

## November 2020

“...they shall have life, and life in all its fullness” John 10:10

<b>Version Number:</b>	2
<b>Drawn up by:</b>	Lee Walker - Headteacher Beverley Tucker - Deputy Headteacher
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date reviewed:</b>	
<b>Approval by:</b>	Full Governing Body
<b>Date approved:</b>	December 2020
<b>Review Cycle:</b>	2 years
<b>Date of next Review:</b>	November 2022

## Contents

1. Principles .....	2
2. Aims .....	2
3. Practice .....	3
3.1 Tutor Groups	
3.2 Assembly	
3.3 St Edmundsbury Cathedral	
3.4 Living-out the impact of collective worship	
4. Roles & Responsibilities .....	4
5. Monitoring and Review.....	4

---

## 1. Principles

In order to enjoy life in all its fullness we make time to develop and to be reflective about our beliefs (religious or otherwise), that inform our perspective on life and our interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values. We foster across our whole community a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves and the world around us through a willingness to reflect on our experiences and through the use of imagination and creativity our learning and response. [c.f.pp 32 "Spiritual Development, Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom]

As a Church of England school, our collective worship follows the church year and Christian patterns. Our collective worship creates inclusive opportunities for us to gather, to engage, to respond and to be 'sent' (we put our response, our reflection and our learning into practice into our daily lives). Our caring ethos, and the values which we place on the development of the whole person - spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually - are revealed in the way we listen and speak with one another and treat each other.

*[Gather, engage, respond and be sent comes from "Spiritual Development, Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom]*

The legal requirement for schools to provide a daily act of collective worship is fulfilled at King Edward VI School in a variety of creative ways and in different locations: gathering in tutor group classrooms of around 25, assembling in the Lower Hall and Performing Arts Centre in Colleges of around 240 students, or in year groups. The community is also invited to worship at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We have created additional opportunities to extend our reflective approach through the creation of dedicated physical spaces and additional group activities.

We are sensitive to the individual's right to withdraw from collective worship and encourage staff or parents to explore this with the Headteacher.

## 2. Aims

In order to enjoy life in all its fullness our approach to collective worship aims to provide a framework in which we will:

- Become increasingly aware of ourselves as individuals, our role in different groups within the school and our place in the wider community

- Grow our understanding of the feelings of other people in every-day situations and beliefs
- Employ a diversity of language: psychological, philosophical, sociological and theological
- Deepen our sense of wonder about the world around us
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to a group or whole school: in leading collective worship
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm others' beliefs
- Encounter Christian tradition, story, practice and values
- Experience a range of spiritual encounters including nature, care of others, mystery, mindfulness, deep thinking, contemplation, sensation, ritual, asceticism and activism.

### 3. Practice

If “worship” is ‘to give worth’, worship is a heartfelt expression of gratitude and praise in response to all that we are, all that we experience and all that we are becoming. Christian worship does this with an awareness of a trinitarian presence and in response to the good news of God’s love.

We employ the same consistent structure to collective worship irrespective of location, worship tradition (liturgical, traditional, modern, contemplative etc.) or leader:

- **Gather:** we meet together
- **Engage:** we hear or receive a talk, scripture, faith input, story, news headline or similar
- **Respond:** we have an opportunity to consider our response in a variety of ways poetry, invitational prayer, silence, music, art, meditation, discussion etc.
- **Sent:** we leave our time of collective worship looking for ways in which the impact of the collective worship experience will influence our relationships, behaviours and mindset in our daily lives.

#### 3.1 Tutor Groups

The vast majority of our daily collective worship takes place in tutor groups. This will follow the ‘gather, engage, respond, sent’ structure, whilst embracing the broadest possible range of spiritual pathways. This might include, for example:

- Discussions which explore issues in the news and aims to link them to moral, ethical or spiritual themes. Such discussions, in mixed age groups, build on a weekly ‘Thought for the Week’ which is in each student’s planner.
- Students are encouraged to plan, lead and enable this time together.
- External speakers, with appropriate follow-up
- Opportunities to reflect individually on particular themes in the tutorial programme

#### 3.2 Assembly

We ensure at least one assembly each week, gathering in the Lower Hall or the Performing Arts Centre in college groups or year groups. Engagement and content is provided by the Headteacher, senior staff or external visitors (including clergy and other faith leaders). Across the year we encourage and enable students in leading elements of assembly. There is always an opportunity for personal response and reflection (music, prayer, poetry, meditation, mindfulness etc.). There will often be information sharing or notices given,

elements of celebrating individual or corporate achievements and a clear 'sending out' at the end of this time together, to live and work the vision of life for all in all its fullness.

### **3.3 St Edmundsbury Cathedral**

We have a deepening relationship with St Edmundsbury Cathedral and enjoy gathering there for special events, services and occasions across the year. Notably on Remembrance Day, for our Christmas Celebration, for Awards Evening and other celebrations as appropriate.

### **3.4 Living-out the impact of collective worship**

We have created dedicated opportunities for personal and group reflection:

- Prayer space
- Weekly online reflection shared across the community
- Reflective Garden
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- Staff prayer group
- Activities to promote well-being

## **4. Roles & Responsibilities**

- The Governing Body is responsible (under the Education Act 1988) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Headteacher.
- The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral Care) is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and 'Thought for the Day' activities on a termly basis.
- All teaching staff are expected to attend assemblies and follow approved tutorial programmes.
- The Senior Leadership Team and Heads of College are responsible for ensuring that adequate training and support is available to all staff engaged in tutoring activities
- Parents of a student 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 school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.
- We remind staff, students and parents of our principles and practice in handbooks, planners and other forms of communication throughout the year.

## **5. Monitoring and Review**

As part of our routine surveys of student feedback we ask students for feedback on the provision made for them, both in lessons and in tutor time/assemblies.

We have a detailed monitoring and evaluation process, which includes drop-ins, learning walks and work scrutiny, and focuses on evaluation of the quality of the school's provision in this area.

As part of the appraisal process, teaching staff meet their own objectives and the Teacher Standards.

Monitoring the effectiveness and implementation of the school's Collective Worship policy is overseen by specific members of the school's Governing Body.

As a Church of England School, we are guided by information and advice available to us from the Diocese, and during the planning and preparation required to undertake a SIAMS inspection.