

The Shrubbery School
A Policy for Collective Worship

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to

- consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests
- develop children's knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and other principal religions and their beliefs, values and practices.
- develop a respect and sensitivity towards other people and their beliefs and philosophies, reflecting the diversity of today's multicultural society.
- We recognise that children come to The Shrubbery School with a wide variety of background beliefs, both religious and non-religious and we will respect our children's own experiences.
- enable children to begin to develop their own beliefs and values through curiosity and awareness of the world and the rules, laws and structures that it is made up of.
- offers all pupils an opportunity to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences
- provide opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and to develop their sense of self-esteem whilst considering the feelings of others.
- help promote British values in line with The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the new social, moral, spiritual and cultural standard - 29 September 2014.

The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, the proprietor of the independent school,

- Actively promote the fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with difference faiths and beliefs
- Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school
- Take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.
- The balanced presentation of opposing views applies while pupils are in attendance at school, while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities provided by, or on behalf of, the school, and in the promotion of those extra-curricular activities, whether they are taking place at the school or elsewhere.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School as a whole:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of The Shrubbery School and it is our aim that it is a time when our school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- recognise and reflect upon our existence in a multi-faith society
- strengthen our community spirit and promote our 6R values.

For the children:

We also intend that assemblies contribute to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs

- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

Core Roles and Responsibilities

Staff and the Head teacher

- An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, key stage or class groupings) will vary from day to day.
- The Head teacher will keep a record of all assembly themes.
- The assembly will provide an opportunity for self-reflection, thanks or praise.

Children:

- Will take part in the programme of Collective Worship unless their parents have withdrawn them from it.

Parents/Carers

• Parents of a student have the 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 Head Teacher.

Proprietor

• Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families and take into account the family background, ages and abilities of all pupils.

Safeguarding

As part of our safeguarding procedures, the act of collective worship is seen as a positive influence on a child's social and emotional well-being with the 6 R values of our school being promoted. Assemblies are never used as a platform to indoctrinate religious or political views and stand with our Equality policy in determining that there should never be bias of race, religion, or gender. The school will not allow a platform for any extremist views of any sort.

Visitors to our assemblies are never left alone with our children and asked to follow our regulations for school visitors and for visitors to school assembly.

Policy to be reviewed July 2017