

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission statement

We deliver high quality teaching and learning in an environment that meets the needs of our students, so that all achieve and enjoy.

Statutory guidance

All maintained schools, academies and free schools without a religious character must provide a daily act of broadly Christian collective worship. With regard to academies (and also free schools) the exact requirements for collective worship will be detailed in the school's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

Collective worship of a 'broadly Christian character' is defined as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not, however, be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Provided that, taken as a whole, an act of worship which is broadly Christian reflects the traditions of Christian belief; it need not contain only Christian material. The inclusion of elements common to Christianity and one or more other religions will not deprive it of that character.

However, in each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

(Information taken from: Collective Worship in Schools 1994; BRIEFING PAPER Number 07167, 7 July 2016 Religious Education in schools (England))

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for students who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Rationale

Collective worship at Shirley High School promotes British values and supports students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The provision of collective worship supports and reinforces our Golden Rule, '**Shirley High School students are expected to show consideration and respect to all members of the school and local community at all times**' which is at the heart of our ethos.

Students are encouraged to take account of their own religious beliefs and practices whilst respecting the religious beliefs and practices of others. The work of the Spiritual and Personal Development department also underpins collective worship within the school.

Principles:

- To meet the statutory requirements for collective worship
- To develop acts of collective worship and ensure they are educationally worthwhile
- To promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To promote British values
- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life as young citizens living in a multicultural and multi-faith society.

Aims of collective worship for the Shirley High School community are:

- Consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues and British values
- Exploration of own beliefs
- Encouragement of participation and response both through active participation and listening
- Development of community spirit
- Promotion of a common ethos and shared values
- Reinforcement of positive attitudes

Methods of Collective worship:

- Assemblies are held every morning with each year group having one assembly each week. The assemblies are usually led by Senior Leaders, Heads of Year, the Head of Spiritual and Personal Development and the Head of History. Students also plan and lead assemblies regularly. Assemblies are broadly within a Christian context but in reflecting the ever changing population and diversity of the Shirley High School community, other religions are represented and acknowledged.
- Each tutor receives a weekly 'Thought for the Day' sheet with activities designed to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects within a theme. The expectation is that this is delivered to every tutor group during morning tutor time. The 'Thought for the Day' is broadly within a Christian context but other religious festivals / world events are also reflected in the themes. Each 'Thought for the Day' is linked to one of the British values (as set out in the 2011 Prevent Strategy).
- Annual Harvest Festival for Years 7 & 8
- Annual Carol Service at St. Johns' Church, Shirley for Years 7 & 8
- Annual Remembrance Day Service
- Annual Easter assemblies led by the Principal
- Annual Christmas assemblies led by the Principal
- Daily prayers for Muslim students led by a Muslim member of staff

Collective worship at Shirley High School, subject to the right to of withdrawal, is intended to include, and to be appropriate, for all students attending school. If parents / carers wish to withdraw their child from school assemblies, they must do so, in writing, to the Principal.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Principal will:

- Lead assemblies at Easter and Christmas for all year groups

The Senior Vice Principal will:

- Organise the annual Remembrance Day Service

The Vice Principal (SMSC) will:

- Organise the assembly rota and the weekly themes for the academic year
- Produce the weekly Thought For the Day Sheets
- Organise the dates and liaise with St. Johns' Church clergy, for the Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol Service

The Head of Spiritual and Personal Development & the Head of History will:

- Lead assemblies where other religious festivals and significant world/cultural events are recognised. E.g. Holocaust Memorial, Ramadan, Martin Luther King, Diwali
- Maintain an overview of the provision of daily prayers for Muslim students

Links to other policies

- Spiritual and Personal Development Policy
- Community Cohesion Policy
- Inclusion Policy

Policy Development/Evaluation

This policy is a dynamic document and will be updated as new legislation and guidance is produced or, in response to research, review or other events that have not previously been covered in depth.

Approved by the Governing Body February 2017