



SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

Our Vision:

To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Intent

At Shirley High School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing collective worship as part of our regular morning routines. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to discuss a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our school routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

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.

Legal framework:

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- RE Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Personal Development - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy
- Spiritual and Personal Development Policy
- Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy



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Implementation

The school will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- 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.
- The school will arrange for SSA mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

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).
- Weekly discussion on social, moral and cultural topics will take place and feedback recorded via the Votes for Schools software.
- 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 an appropriate member(s) of staff



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Roles and responsibilities:

The Principal will:

- Lead assemblies at key parts of the year for all year groups

The Assistant Principal will:

- Organise the annual Remembrance Day Service

The Assistant 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 and **gospel choir**

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Principal following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.



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Monitoring and review

This policy will be regularly reviewed by the Principal in agreement with the governing board. 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.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is July 2025.

We want all at SHS to believe in and maintain the values of our school:

