



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 POLICY

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 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collective worship within our school routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.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 Shirley Values, that we promote to all within our school and community.

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 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



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- Spiritual and Personal Development Policy
- Equality Policy
- Inclusion Policy

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.

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:

- A weekly tutor time schedule is set by the SLT Lead for Personal Development and is followed by the relevant personal tutor team. Every year group is scheduled one assembly per week, predominantly delivered by SLT/ Head of Years/other staff members assigned areas of expertise as and when appropriate. Whilst achievement and progress of learners is recognised weekly, special 'Celebration' assemblies are scheduled at the end of every term to share in learners' personal and academic achievements. Where deemed appropriate learners actively partake in planning/leading assemblies.
- We invest heavily in VotesforSchools, a voting platform highlighting the importance of being informed, curious and heard which is integral to the personal tutor time programme and develops learners' knowledge of Spiritual Moral Social Cultural (SMSC) issues, British values and Prevent. Furthermore, it nurtures learners' confidence in oracy, political literacy and participation.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Principal will:

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



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The SLT Lead (Personal Development) will:

- Organise the assembly rota and the weekly themes for the academic year
- Organise the tutor programme for all year groups
- Lead on assemblies where relevant

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.

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.

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

