

AYLSHAM LEARNING FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Reference: JT/Collective Worship Policy Review Frequency: 3 Years
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Signed:

Chair

1. Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students/pupils to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature, and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual, cultural, social and moral issues
- participate in and respond to the worship offered.

2. Statutory Duty of Schools

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all maintained schools are required to provide an act of daily collective worship for registered students/pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn– see 'Withdrawal' below), conducted on the School premises.

Within Aylsham High School and Bure Valley School, this is usually provided within assemblies and daily reflections where appropriate.

The Executive Headteacher/Head of School is responsible for arranging the act of daily collective worship. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the students/pupils.

3. Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or at other times, will:

- be of a mainly broadly non-denominational Christian nature, taking into account the faith background of the school community
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- include a variety of spiritual and moral issues and elements at different times
- involve and engage the students/pupils.

Daily/Weekly themes for collective worship, discussion and reflection may be proposed by any member of staff but will be agreed with the Executive Headteacher/Head of School prior to being highlighted to staff leading the assembly.

Visitors may also be invited to attend and lead assemblies. Guidance as to the theme, nature and duration of the assembly will be provided in advance to the coordinating member of staff to ensure the material delivered is appropriate for the school community and in line with this policy.

4. Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They will be advised of this right in the school prospectus and asked to contact the Executive Headteacher/Head of School to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given, but parents will be invited to discuss the nature of the objections and the practical implications of withdrawal with the Executive Headteacher/Head of School. Where arrangements are made to withdraw students/pupils, they should be confirmed in writing and records kept by the School.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship on faith or conscience grounds and should confirm their intention to do so with the Executive Headteacher/Head of School.

Where the Executive Headteacher/Head of School wishes to withdraw from collective worship on faith or conscience grounds, this intention shall be confirmed with the Governing Board and the Executive Headteacher/Head of School shall appoint a 'Collective Worship Coordinator' to agree and monitor the collective worship themes in their place. Responsibility for implementation of the policy across the School is still retained by the Executive Headteacher/Head of School.

5. Complaints

Concerns expressed by parents and others about collective worship in the School will normally be considered and, so far as is possible, dealt with in informal discussion with the tutor/class teacher, Head of House, or Executive Headteacher/Head of School in the first instance. There may however, be cases where such concerns cannot be resolved informally. These will need to be considered as formal complaints and dealt with via the School Complaints Procedure.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Executive Headteacher/Head of School, in conjunction with the Governing Board will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.