

Collective Worship Policy



Formby High School
Determined To Achieve

Principles

Formby High School believes that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens the ethos of the school and the wellbeing and development of our students. In this way, it forms an integral part of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship is a valuable time in the school day for the space it gives students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections and show sensitivity towards the views and beliefs of others.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. They must also be appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.

We recognise that our students come from a range of faith and non-faith backgrounds and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach or convert. The faith background of both the staff and the students' families is respected at all times.

Parents may withdraw their children wholly or in part from Collective Worship and students over compulsory school age may withdraw themselves from Collective Worship. Staff may withdraw from Collective Worship by putting their request in writing and discussing their decision with the head teacher.

The Aims of this Policy

Through our Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for our students to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people towards a variety of situations
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Appreciate British values such as freedom of belief, respect for human rights and the law, recognition of individual responsibilities and the importance of democracy, playing an active part in the community and identifying and combatting discrimination
- Consider their response and that of others to a range of ethical and moral issues.

Practice

Collective Worship is structured around a themed programme of 'Thoughts for the Day' which is reviewed and updated annually by the Curriculum Leader for Religious and Values Education (RAVE). Weekly themes are based around one or more of the following:

- Aspects of the RAVE curriculum (RE, PSHEE and Citizenship)
- Events on the school calendar
- Religious festivals – e.g. Christmas, Easter
- National and international events – e.g. Armistice Day, Fair Trade Fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day
- Educational themes – e.g. Internet Safety Week, Anti-Bullying Week.

The quotations used have been collected from a number of sources including holy books, literature, film and song lyrics, quotations from famous people, statistics and contributions from

staff and students. They are intended to provide an opportunity for engagement with Christian values through reflection and discussion.

In addition, the programme includes the Formby High School 'Pause for Thought', which is a reflection on the school's values written by students. This is on display in classrooms and read aloud in assemblies.

The programme for Collective Worship is provided to all staff and to the Chair of Governors and the 'Thoughts' for each week are published on the school website and displayed on the corridor in A building.

The school may depart from the published programme in order to respond to significant events which may occur, for example a natural disaster. This gives the opportunity for students to explore reactions to such events and reflect on their own response to them.

At Formby High School we combine Collective Worship with assembly, helping to ensure that it takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies take place weekly for each year group and on other days form tutors lead tutor groups in daily reflections during the morning tutor period.

Weekly assemblies are led by members of the Senior Leadership team in conjunction with Climate for Learning Leaders and the programme for this is set out at the start of each academic year. Presentations from visiting speakers augment provision from time to time. Whole school assemblies take place at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms and on these occasions students participate actively in their delivery.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

- To monitor the implementation of this policy through the Link Governor RAVE and review it on a regular basis.

The Headteacher

- To be responsible for arranging the daily Collective Worship after consulting with the Governing Body.

Senior Leadership Team

- Alongside the Curriculum Leader, to monitor the implementation of the policy through 'drop ins' during morning tutor period and assemblies.
- To deliver assemblies in accordance with 'Thought for the Day' and promote 'Pause for Thought'.

The Curriculum Leader

- The Curriculum Leader for Religious and Values Education is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and 'Thought for the Day' activities on an annual basis.
- Alongside the Senior Leadership Team, to monitor the implementation of the policy through 'drop ins' during morning tutor period and assemblies.

Form Tutors

- To be responsible for the delivery of the daily 'Thought for the Day'.

Teaching Staff

- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from Collective Worship.