



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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# THE NORTH SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Religious Education

Religious Education at The North School is provided in line with and meets statutory requirements, which are that:

- The curriculum for every maintained school shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes provision for religious education for all students registered at the school
- The religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions of the UK are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principle religious traditions represented in the UK
- The religious education shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

### Aims of Religious Education

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus, our aims in RE are:

- To enable each student to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences
- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principle world faiths represented in Kent and the UK
- To affirm each student in their own family tradition, religious or secular, and through that to promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of others
- To provide opportunities for the cultivation of students' spiritual, moral, social, cultural development and British Values
- To support students in reflecting and thinking about fundamental human beliefs and values so that they develop a personal framework
- To foster an enquiring and open mind
- To develop the skills of listening, communicating and empathising.

The North School works to the Kent Agreed Syllabus 2006. The Subject Leader for Values is responsible for leading, managing and monitoring all aspects of the subject to secure high standards of attainment and achievement in Values.

Provision for RE is maintained through discrete lessons in Key Stage 3. In Key Stage 4 students have access to the GCSE in Religious Studies. Students study in depth two religions, one which is Christianity and the other either Sikhism or Judaism. Students are assessed using the GCSE marking criteria.

Students in KS3 study a varied curriculum within RE and is delivered through a themed approach. The work is assessed using a 9-1 grade criteria, filtering down from GCSE to Y7 the skills required to make progress.

### Withdrawal

We acknowledge the right of parents/carers to withdraw their child/ward from Values and that of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject on grounds of conscience. We aim to provide an open and inclusive curriculum which can be taught to all students by all teachers. Any questions or concerns from parents or withdrawals should be in the first instance be raised with the Subject Leader, then referred to the Head of School. Should parents/carers choose to withdraw their child they must provide alternative RE provision.

### Collective Worship

The daily act of collective worship at The North School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness

and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our students to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

### **Aims:**

- ◆ to provide students with a range of opportunities to worship (however defined or understood);
- ◆ to offer experiences and opportunities for students to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;
- ◆ to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

The Head of School, Deputies and Community teams are responsible for planning and leading collective worship at The North School.

Collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings. The North School provides Half School and Community Assemblies. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

### **Collective worship and the law:**

The Collective Worship Policy at The North School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Head of School. Any student who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff. Currently there are no withdrawals from our collective worship programme.

Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. Currently there are no staff withdrawals from our collective worship programme.

### **Use of Visitors**

Visitors may be invited into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion.

### **Health and Safety**

In collective worship we follow the school's Health & Safety policy. In line with our 'net-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all students must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with students.

**Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.