

Collective Worship Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

Lealands High School policies are designed to support the school ethos, aims and vision. Lealands is a positive learning community which is fully inclusive to ensure equality of opportunity for all.

Our aims are outlined in our Home School Agreement. We want all members of the school community to:

- Enjoy learning
- Be enquiring
- Achieve the best
- Feel safe and secure
- Be happy
- Be well cared for and supported
- Be challenged and make good progress
- Be prepared for a bright future
- Make a valued contribution
- Enjoy a well ordered and stimulating learning environment

Our vision is to be:

“A centre of excellence, nurturing all learners, whatever their needs or interests, instilling high expectations for all and preparing young people for life and a bright future.”

All staff are required to uphold the ethos and aims of the school through the application of this and all school policies agreed by governors.

2. RATIONALE

The law requires all schools to hold a daily act of collective worship, which is Christian in nature. Worship can be defined as a collective act which is educational, encourages reflection and response and celebrates these aspects of human experience that we value.

- 2.1 Collective worship at Lealands offers students the opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation or through listening to and joining in and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and share values, and reinforce positive attitudes.
- 2.2 Collective worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all students attending Lealands.
- 2.3 Collective worship at Lealands High School recognises the wide variety of religious groups at the school and does not exclude anyone. However, it does reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. We do believe that it is important for students to be encouraged to reflect collectively on matters of a spiritual and moral nature and also to recognise the importance of faith and worship in the context of a multifaith society. In view of this, our collective worship takes place in school year assemblies and in tutor groups where students are given the opportunity to reflect on issues and discuss matters relating to their lives.
- 2.4 Assemblies are also used to celebrate the major festivals of the major world religions. The school's citizenship and Religious Studies programmes (CitRS) include units of work on Living in a Diverse Society where students are taught to respect and value the world's wide range of faiths and acts of worship.

3. BROAD GOALS

The main purpose of collective worship in the school is to:

- 3.1 encourage students to develop a social, moral and spiritual (defined as inner self) dimension to their lives;
- 3.2 develop high personal standards;
- 3.3 foster an ethos of a school community based on shared values;
- 3.4 develop understanding, tolerance and respect for others;
- 3.5 offer opportunities for reflection;
- 3.6 encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community.

4. STUDENT IMPACT & OTHER OUTCOMES

An aware, sensitive and caring school community, which takes a pride in itself and is based on shared values.

5. PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

In order to achieve our goals we will structure collective worship as follows:

A programme of assemblies for the whole year will be drawn up that incorporates aspects of collective worship, citizenship and standards themes. There will be clearly published guidelines on the high expectations for behaviour in and conduct of assemblies. Students will be encouraged to help plan and deliver assemblies on a regular basis.

5.1 Assemblies

- 5.1.1 All students will take part in a whole-school programme of assemblies that enable them to reflect on themes covered in the school's citizenship programme of study or aspects of social and emotional aspects of learning.
- 5.1.2 These assemblies will be delivered to individual year groups so that they can be pitched at an appropriate level according to age.
- 5.1.3 All assemblies will include a period of quiet spiritual reflection about an issue of morality linked to the theme.
- 5.1.4 Citizenship assemblies will mark major world religious festivals at the appropriate times of year.
- 5.1.5 It will be responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher to plan and organise delivery of the assemblies that mark major world religious festivals.
- 5.1.6 At the beginning and end of each term and on other special occasions rewards and celebratory assemblies are organised to celebrate the work of the school.
- 5.1.7 Such assemblies may include readings from the Bible/songs/hymns/prayers and reflective collective worship of a broadly Christian nature.
- 5.1.8 The school has an annual Christmas Concert at the end of the Autumn Term for students, parents and staff.

5.2 Standards Assemblies

- 5.2.1 All students will take part in a year-based programme of standards assemblies used to affirm the values of the school and wider community, to praise achievement and celebrate success and to recognise important local, national and global events.
- 5.2.2 A schedule for standards assemblies will be drawn up at the beginning of each year that reflects the dates of important events in the year for that year group.
- 5.2.3 All standards assemblies will include a period of quiet reflection that will relate to either the theme of the assembly or another relevant reflection.

- 5.2.4 Heads of Year will plan their schedule of standards assemblies within the following criteria:
 - 5.2.4.1 content will relate specifically to the needs of the year group, while referring back to whole-school values and issues;
 - 5.2.4.2 most, if not all, standards assemblies will contain an element of reward and recognition of achievement;
 - 5.2.4.3 at least one assembly each term will be devoted exclusively to reward and recognition of achievement;
 - 5.2.4.4 the promotion of good attendance and punctuality, good behaviour and discipline and high expectations for effort and attainment will be recurring themes for standards assemblies;
 - 5.2.4.5 there will be extensive student involvement with each tutor group being responsible for delivering at least one standards assembly per year, as required by the citizenship programme;
 - 5.2.4.6 the involvement of visiting speakers is actively encouraged.
- 5.3 Value of the Month
 - 5.3.1 A Value of the Month calendar will be published at the beginning of the academic year and monthly in the staff newsletter.
 - 5.3.2 On days when students are not in assembly, Tutors and staff covering tutor time will ensure that the *Value of the Month* is discussed at some point and that time is then taken to reflect on or discuss the published theme. Time may be used to respond to an event in the school or wider community.
 - 5.3.3 All staff will be invited to contribute to *Value of the Month* themes.
 - 5.3.4 The value for the month is displayed in all classrooms and used in tutor time sessions to encourage reflection and development of self and values.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION & REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher in charge of collective worship and assemblies.

We will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship as follows:

- 6.1 The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for the overall management and leadership of the Collective Worship Policy.
- 6.2 Each Head of Year is responsible for the day to day monitoring of the policy at year level through the school's agreed procedures for monitoring quality standards and the response of staff and students to collective worship as defined in this policy.
- 6.3 Tutors and pastoral support managers (PSMs) are responsible for a quick orderly entry of students and for their orderly dismissal at the end.
- 6.4 Assemblies will last for around 15 minutes and all students will have one formal assembly per week.