



**St Edward's**  
RC/CE VA School

# Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed and Approved by Personal Development, Behaviour and Wellbeing  
On: 2 March 2017**

**Reviewed and Ratified at the St Edward's FGB  
On: 27 April 2017**

**Next review date: March 2018**

**Member of SLT responsible: Mr C Farrow**

## **Introduction**

St Edward's as a Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary aided comprehensive school has its distinctive character laid out in the School Covenant and Mission Statement. Worship of God together is seen as part of our everyday lives in school and all members of the school community should have the opportunity to experience prayer, worship and reflection. We all need to be helped on our personal journey of faith, with Christ as our example and the Holy Spirit as our guide. We endeavour to 'do nothing apart which we can do together to serve your purposes of Justice, Love and Peace.'

The school community comprises the students, all staff, governors and parents.

## **Legal responsibilities and rights**

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship must take place on a daily basis for all registered pupils. All acts of worship in a voluntary aided school must be according to the Trust Deed of the school and can be of a denominational nature. At St. Edward's we want to recognise and affirm the different Christian traditions from which the members of the community come. Responsibility for ensuring that collective worship takes place lies with the governors in consultation with the Headteacher. Parents have the right of withdrawing their child from collective worship under the 1988 Act.

## **The aims of our collective acts of Christian worship**

- To provide daily acts of worship, that stimulate prayer and reflection.
- To enable all to participate in worship as a shared activity, allowing a variety of responses
- To enable those of different Christian traditions to share together and learn from each other
- To raise awareness of social and moral issues, enabling empathy and compassion.
- To provide acts of worship that are seen to be part of the overall educational programme, by being linked to the curriculum, to the Church's Year, and to national and global issues.
- To encourage students to participate in and to help organise acts of collective worship

## **The objectives of collective worship**

To help members of the school community to:-

- reflect upon the meaning and purpose of human existence within a developing relationship between human beings and God
- develop an understanding of the language and nature of Christian worship
- explore and develop their own spirituality and widen their personal response and commitment.
- foster sensitivity to the beliefs, values and practices of others within the school community
- take part in worship as a meaningful experience to which all participants can respond
- reflect the aims of the school, celebrate the values and worth of the school community and the uniqueness of individuals within the community
- celebrate special occasions and show appreciation of the gifts and talents of the school community

## **Context of collective worship**

Collective worship at St Edward's takes place in a range of settings, in order to provide different styles and opportunities for experiencing Christian worship.

- On one day each week every year group meets together to have the opportunity for joint Collective worship. This is planned on a termly basis, with links to the Church's Year and themes. This is led by both members of staff, students and visitors.
- Tutor groups meet together for prayer and reflection as part of tutor time on four days of the week. Each tutor is responsible for ensuring that this moment of reflection takes place and has a rota of collective worship on display. Each tutor room has a focal point of a cross/crucifix to aid in their times of prayer. Reflections are led by both members of staff and students through the week.
- All students have a Diary of Reflection which they use for personal reflection on one morning a week, this is led by their tutor.
- Acts of collective worship to celebrate particular occasions are seen as essential points in the school year. A Celebration Service of Welcome for the new students, staff, clergy and parents, an Advent Celebration and Christmas Celebration takes place in the Autumn Term. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated in January. Ash Wednesday is marked as the start of Lent, and a whole school act of worship for Holy Week is held at the end of the Spring term. Easter is celebrated at the beginning of the Summer Term. Year 13 have a Farewell act of worship.
- The Chaplaincy team are involved in leading assemblies and supporting acts of worship. Opportunities for reflection are organised at times during the year to which all members of the community are welcome
- An act of worship begins each Staff INSET day led by different departments of the school
- A regular review of acts of worship is undertaken by the Chaplaincy team each half term