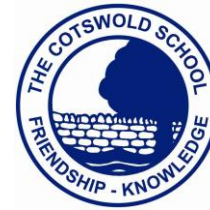


THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL – POLICY DOCUMENT



Policy:	Collective Worship Policy
Policy Ref:	CSP 24
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Date:	February 2018
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Authorised by:	Governing Body
Updated by:	Mrs H Holland Mrs C Roffe Lady Dunrossil

The Collective Worship Policy at The Cotswold School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE. The Collective Worship Policy of The Cotswold School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools are legally required to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). At The Cotswold School this is provided by weekly School Assemblies, weekly Year Assemblies and daily tutor activities.

The Principal, Will Morgan, is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 section 70) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 defines 'broadly Christian' to mean that it should 'not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination'). The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the Principal may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. This has been deemed not to be the case at The Cotswold School Academy

The Cotswold School Academy Trust aims at following the above guidance.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues, concerns and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship/reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship can both reinforce and contribute to the ethos of the school, in addition to offering a unique occasion in the school day to pause and explore life beyond the prescribed curriculum.

It encourages members of the whole school community, teachers and learners together, to challenge assumptions and reflect upon issues which transcend normal day to day experiences. It aims to broaden understanding of and contribute to our search for meaning in life. It can make a significant contribution to the ethos of the school by reinforcing and reflecting the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It can inspire, uplift, celebrate and give a sense of purpose and direction. By enabling pupils to acknowledge the value of diversity in terms of race, gender, culture and differing abilities, it fosters inclusion, breeds tolerance and nurtures respect

It allows those with religious commitment to enter into worship, those who have no such commitment are offered an opportunity to sense what worship can mean and reflect personally.

Aims of Collective Worship for the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of The Cotswold School. It is a time when the school community can:

- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live

Aims of Collective Worship for the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond to the worship offered
- reflect on what it means to be human

Collective Worship and Assemblies

Assemblies can incorporate collective worship, but there is a distinction between the two. Celebrating sporting or academic achievements may be done in an assembly but using the pupils' achievements to explore and reflect on human potential, determination, loyalty, courage could be the stimulus for a 'worshipful response' and therefore could constitute collective worship.

The Cotswold School ensures that notices are separate from an act of collective worship and these are dealt with at the beginning or the end. Ideally notices are stated at the beginning, enabling pupils to continue to reflect on the message they have heard as they continue with other school activities

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However items referred to in Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

At times, themes identified in Collective Worship will be followed up in Tutor Time, or Tutor Time itself offers time for Collective Worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or one of the multi purpose rooms, or the classroom. Assemblies will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. These will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Where appropriate Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of each assembly are recorded to ensure a breadth of spiritual, moral, social and cultural elements are explored. Fundamental British Values of democracy, justice, rule of law and respect are incorporated.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through personal reflection/ prayer.

Withdrawal

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 section 71, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the Principal who will ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the act of collective worship takes place. Alternative stimulus for reflection should be provided by the parent/guardian. Pupils can be withdrawn wholly or partly from acts of collective worship only by parents. Schools should not use this time to withdraw pupils for other activities

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy once every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

ratified by Governors and

signed as such by The Chair of Governors (*05- 02-2018*)

This policy is written and administered with due regard to our duty and commitment as a school: to consider all aspects of equality and diversity.