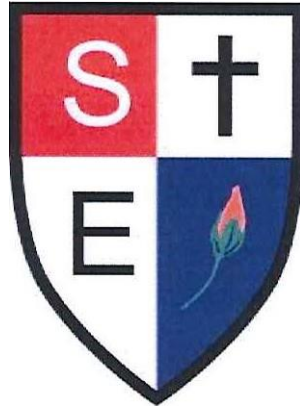


Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College



A Member of Slough and East Berkshire C of E
Multi Academy Trust

Collective Worship Policy

Owner:	Mr Martin Culkeen
Ratified by Governing Body:	<i>James M. Scragg</i>
Date Ratified:	November 2023
Date Policy to be reviewed:	Autumn 2024

Collective Worship Policy

In our acts of 'Collective Worship' at Slough and Eton, we recognise that our community is made up of diverse religious, agnostic and atheist backgrounds operating within the context of a Church of England School.

Aims and Objectives:

At Slough and Eton, we seek to reflect the Christian Ethos of the school and its care for all who work here in our collective worship.

Our central aims of collective worship (as detailed in the Diocesan guideline) are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship;
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with/to God;
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
- use a range of means such as celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for collective worship and spiritual growth;
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address their own spirituality directly;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God by learning more about the Christian faith and other world religions;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (E.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for personal, spiritual, moral and social development that are characterised by feelings such as appreciation, gratitude, respect, awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

Within our acts of collective worship, we aim to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive; ● provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story-telling and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- provide an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self- review and this will be achieved over time by asking stakeholders to provide feedback on school worship. We acknowledge the right of the individual to withdraw from the worship. Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the representatives of the Christian Ethos Group, SLT members, Heads of Year and the impact of the collective worship will be evaluated by seeking student views.

Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- Written observations - checking that practice matches planning;
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest;
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback;
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors;
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school;
- holding regular discussions with colleagues;
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet.

Evaluation:

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship by the Christian Ethos Group.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:

Any act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion.

Review:

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every three years. A worship planning and record sheet will be kept to ensure that collective worship is generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. This will include regular formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors from outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator:

Mr Martin Culkeen —Deputy Headteacher

Governor responsible for collective worship:

Father Scott Lamb

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

IN THE HALL

- Line up in the quad area at 8:30 in tutor groups in registration order;
- enter the hall in silence and sit in the allocated areas in silence whilst an appropriate piece of music is being played in the background;
- greetings by the Head of Year;
- introduce the person who is leading the assembly;
- introduction of the 'Theme' for the collective reflection;
- engage students in the theme via any symbols, imagery, song, thought provoking questions or stories and ask for any responses;
- end the collective worship by a prayer from the collective reflections book;
- students should be contemplating quietly (possibly eyes closed or heads bowed) whilst the prayer is being read out;
- students should leave the hall quietly once any notices have been given out;
- if possible an appropriate song or piece of music to be played in the background.

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR COLLECTIVE REFLECTIONS

DURING TUTOR TIME

- Greet students positively;
- refresh students' minds about the theme for the week;
- ask a student to read a collective reflection from the Slough and Eton Collective Reflections book;
- continue with the tutor time activities.