

# 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 2025
Date Policy to be reviewed:	Autumn 2026

## *Collective Worship Policy*

### *Inclusive Invitational Inspiring*

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.

#### **The appointment of our School Chaplain**

The Chaplaincy supports the Church of England's Vision for Education in the school to offer "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10) to everyone in this spiritually and culturally diverse and vibrant school community. Slough comprises of people from a wide variety of deeply committed faith backgrounds, who come from many different cultures and diverse national backgrounds. This will largely be delivered through high quality collective worship, and by being the 'public face of God' for the school community.

#### **Aims and objectives**

Slough and Eton aspire to provide collective worship that is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring is underpinned by the following aims and objectives and will be monitored and quality assured through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

#### **At S&E the Collective worship in school do the following:**

- Explore the school's vision of **Life in all its fullness – John 10:1-10** and our Christ like values. In doing so, it will reflect on our values of communication, honesty, initiate, tolerance, and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help students and staff to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God, including the other five main religions of Britain
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all students and staff to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable students and staff to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

#### **Collective Worship and the Law**

We fulfil the requirement which reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity

## **Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring**

**Inclusive:** Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Many students and staff at our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background.

Moreover, many of our students will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time at S&E. Students are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. We expect all those who facilitate Collective Worship ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

## **Collective worship should not be 'done to'**

This means meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including students. It is recognised that students will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion at S&E ensures student involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Collective worship at S&E grows out of the local context and out of students' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

## **Invitational:**

Students and staff can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

## **Christian message at its heart**

Students and staff are invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer is always be accompanied by the option to reflect

## **Inspiring:**

Students and staff can expect collective worship to be inspirational. Worship that is both formational and transformational: it enables our students and staff to ask big questions about who they are and why they do what they do. It is intended to motivate students and staff into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

## **Right to withdraw**

Those who are uncomfortable to participate has the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or students who wish to exercise this option, in line with the DfE requirements and need to inform the Headteacher. The school will provide supervision for these pupils.

## **Provision**

The rhythm of daily worship allows students and adults to step away from the target-driven culture of

much of education, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Pupils and adults can expect that the school's collective worship practices will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief.

Whether in times of crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

Throughout the year S&E students and staff meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent, and recognising and remembering some of the other key festivals in the five other main religions? Other important events in the school year, such as national awareness days are also marked

Students and staff follow a recognisable structure that will help focus worship on one idea. The School Chaplain and SLT lead create the Collective worship delivery schedule and plan. This helps to give organisation and clarity to the unfolding of that idea, as well as helping the leader to ensure that worship is age-appropriate.

## **Developing staff expertise and knowledge: Confidence through professionalism**

**Students and staff are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with students and staff from all faiths and none.**

Therefore, it is a priority to build up the expertise of staff, students, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in Church schools.

### **To do this the school should ensure the following.**

- Worship leaders, including chaplain, have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams.
- Student worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders have access to high quality and current resources provided by the School Chaplain
- The SLT lead monitors the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring includes and meaningfully involvement of student voice. Those facilitating worship have the opportunity to receive feedback and the hear the outcome of evaluation.
- Outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship are properly briefed about the school, its student context and the school's vision. They are supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.
- DLO is the named member of staff responsible for collective worship with responsibility for ensuring that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available. The School Chaplain plays a key role in ensuring we meet SIAMS criteria.

## Reference

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1701679054/sebmatcom/prn9qgqllqdtprfyzmp/SIAMSreportSloughandEton2023.pdf>

<https://www.slougheton.com/about/christian-values-and-ethos>

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1702565243/sebmatcom/fvy4yiasx1bjz8qmojll/CollectiveWorshipPolicy.pdf>

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1696883110/sebmatcom/j72ti5zqtono8md37vbw/SloughandEtonCW23-24.pdf>