



Royal Grammar School

Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed by the Governing Body	NA
Date to be reviewed	October 2019
Date of last review	October 2016
Governors Committee accountable for review	Education
Senior Leadership Team member accountable for review	ARW

Collective Worship Policy

The Royal Grammar School seeks to comply with the Government policy and statutory requirements on collective worship through the provision of Assemblies for the whole school at the start of the school day, with the exception of Thursday when all pupils have an extended form period for pastoral purposes. There is also a regular pattern of Sixth Form assemblies on Thursday morning. There is the opportunity in this pastoral time for Form Tutors to deliver a "Thought for the Week". There is a structured plan with stimulus material provided.

The School has a Christian foundation and therefore Christian Worship is the usual form of religious assembly which would often be led by a member of staff, Christian students, or speakers from local churches. However as a multi faith community we welcome talks given by members of other faiths. Other topical talks are also delivered.

The School believes that an opportunity for all the pupils to gather together as a community is an important aspect of school life, in order to identify with the school ethos, other year groups, and issues that affect the whole school. Assemblies provide this opportunity and they include an act of collective worship as required by Government but which we undertake as something that is important in the lives of individuals promoting their social, emotional, cultural, moral and spiritual well-being. The Headmaster is responsible for arranging collective worship but may delegate this as appropriate.

Our Aims

The aim of the Collective Worship Policy is to provide the opportunity for students and staff:

- to celebrate achievement and special times
- to reflect on values that promote shared social and moral responsibility
- to develop a community spirit and a common ethos
- to consider different spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- to exercise understanding, tolerance and respect for others and their beliefs
- to experience a shared collective act with a religious character

Implementation of the Policy

Two Assemblies are held in the Queen's Hall at the start of the school day to enable the whole school to be involved:

- Junior Assembly: 0845-0900: Years 7, 8 and 9.
- Senior Assembly: 0900-0915: Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Junior Assembly is led by a member of the Senior Team and may include:

- the singing of a hymn for which books are provided
- a short talk which lasts 3-5 minutes and may be secular or religious in content and always seeks to develop the students' spiritual and moral awareness
- a prayer or a short period of quiet reflection
- notices for the day and any recognition that is due

Senior Assembly is led by a member of the Senior Team and follows a similar pattern to Junior Assembly but no hymn is included.

The assembly rota is organised by the Deputy Headmaster who seeks to establish a broad and balanced content to the assembly programme. There may be times when a key moral or social issue needs to be addressed or there may be special occasions when a particular message needs to be conveyed. This could be in response to a critical incident that has occurred affecting the school community.

All boys attend assemblies and it is also expected that they will listen to the talks whilst showing due respect to the speaker. Talks are given by members of staff, Prefects and other pupils, or outside speakers.

Collective Worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be appropriate to the whole school community
- involve the students
- include a variety of elements at different times, for example:
 - outside speakers
 - topical issues
 - active participation
 - drama, music and other cultural items
 - reinforcing and sharing the school's values
 - the view of faiths other than Christianity

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their son from collective worship. Any parent/carer wishing to exercise this right must submit their request in writing to the Headmaster. This does not mean that the student will be withdrawn from the whole of an assembly which may incorporate a variety of elements other than the collective act of worship. Provision for students not taking part in collective worship will be dealt with on an individual basis. Members of staff may be granted permission by the Headmaster to withdraw from that part of an assembly which has a collective act of worship. A Sixth Form student may decide whether or not to attend the collective worship element of an assembly.

Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by assessing the balance of assemblies delivered on an annual basis by the Senior Team. The nature and quality of assemblies will be discussed and reviewed by the School Council.