



## ST ANN'S SCHOOL

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP, REFLECTION AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

#### **This policy**

St Ann's School is proud to be a Unicef Gold Rights Respecting School. The school ethos and our daily practice actively promotes the implementation of all Articles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3 (best interests of the child), Article 6 (survival and development) Article 14 (freedom of thought and religion) and Article 30 (minority culture, language and religion) are particularly pertinent to St Ann's Collective Worship, Reflection and Assembly Policy.

St Ann's is a thriving school which celebrates diversity amongst its students and staff and provides a nurturing environment for effective learning to take place.

The school has a positive ethos in which the needs of the students are paramount and met by a harmonious team of teachers, support staff, multi disciplinary staff and governors.

This policy was developed in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, guidelines from DfE and Ealing SACRE and is regularly reviewed. It recognises the responsibility to provide a daily act of 'collective worship' for all registered students.

We are committed to promoting community cohesion and make our acts of collective worship and reflection fully inclusive whilst maintaining that these are of a broadly Christian character

At St Ann's School, we endeavour that through collective worship, students are provided with the opportunity to be a part of a daily experience which is special and separate from other daily activities.

Collective worship and reflection is part of St Ann's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each young person. It is presented in such a way that provides access for all and celebrates differences.

## **Aims**

- Affirmation and celebration of the values and ethos of the school
- Offer opportunities to experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose
- Encourage a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- Encourage pupils to appreciate and develop their own cultural traditions, and those of other communities by including key festivals and anniversaries as they arise throughout the calendar.
- To promote that truth, honesty, fairness and integrity are central to a fulfilled life
- Encourage students to develop a sense of group and self identity by celebrating the achievements of themselves and others
- The promotion of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development including opportunities to reflect on becoming an adult citizen of the world
- Opportunities to reflect quietly and make an internal response congruent with one's own personal beliefs and background, including prayer, music and meditation
- Stimulate the possibility of a student's inward reflection
- Celebrate diversity and differences
- To foster the expression of innermost thoughts and feelings through art, music, literature and crafts.

## **Rationale**

The ethos of the school is fundamental to the teaching of spiritual and moral education. The quality of relationships, the examples set by staff and the way in which the school helps students to understand and deal with conflict, loss, grief or difficulties are all important. We recognise that all students will be at different stages in their understanding, and that learning opportunities must be differentiated if they are to reach each young person.

The organisation of the school provides a value system and boundaries which help and support students to come to their own judgements.

The daily act of collective worship reinforces the ethos of the school.

## **Implementation and organisation**

At St Ann's, our collective worship and reflection happens

- In class collective worship sessions
- At the end of the week Well Done Meeting
- Through the sharing of religious, national and cultural festivals

Reflection and collective worship is held daily at the end of each school day in individual class groups or at assembly or Well Done Meetings. Each class teacher, or Senior Leader plans a sensitive approach around the theme which

may be linked to seasonal religious festivals, the world around us or 'special days'.

### **Roles, Responsibilities, Delivery and Planning**

St Ann's recognises that all staff have a key responsibility in acting as positive role models for high quality relationships and attitudes, and for promoting the ethos of the school.

Under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, the Head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship and reflection after consulting with the Curriculum Manager and the Governing Body.

Senior Leaders and Middle Leaders are responsible for the Friday Well Done Meeting assembly which is an important part of the school week. The tradition of listening to music and dancing as part of the assembly encourages a sense of reflection as well as celebration and assists in encouraging thoughtfulness about the ethos of the school.

The Curriculum Manager and a designated member of the Extended School Leadership Team are responsible for the organisation of whole school religious celebrations for the major festivals, as reflected within the faiths of the student population of the school.

These are planned in advance and are presented by members of staff, students and from time to time invited guests from a variety of traditions. Care is taken to ensure that these are sensitive and appropriate to the needs of students and the school.

Class teachers have a responsibility for delivering collective worship within their class in a way which is appropriate for the individual students.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring occurs through observation carried out by the Senior Leadership Team and Extended Leadership Team.

### **Withdrawal**

The main aim of collective worship and reflection at St Ann's is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all students and staff, of a broadly Christian tradition and for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they need to remove their young person from these sessions.

Parents/ carers do, however, have the right to withdraw their child without explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents/carers and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion can be avoided. Staff also have the right to withdraw from the act of reflection and collective worship.

In the event of a student being withdrawn by parents, an agreed alternative will be provided by parents and the Head teacher will ensure appropriate supervision for the student.

## **Conclusion**

This policy is in line with other school policies and therefore should be read in conjunction with the following

- School Ethos Policy
- Community Cohesion Policy
- Disability Equality Scheme

This policy is also in accordance with:

- Ofsted School Inspection Framework published 2021
- Religious Education in Schools (England) House of Commons Briefing Paper 07176 July 2016
- Ealing SACRE

## **The Governing Body**

Regular reports are made to the Governing Body or, in part, to the Curriculum and Pupil Progress Committee on the progress of RE and collective worship provision. The policy will be reviewed every 3 years as part of the school's rolling programme.

**Policy reviewed by the Governing Body : 11.02.22**

**Next Policy Review 11.02.24**