

Caedmon College Whitby



Collective Worship Policy

College Governance Status

This policy was adopted by Governors in June 2020 and is reviewed in the light of new government guidance.

Review dates	By Whom	Approval date
June 2020	Staff and Governors	8 July 2020

Signed by the Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pen Cruz', is written over a horizontal line.

Aim

The aim of the Collective Worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:

- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- Worship God if they so choose, and respond to the worship offered.

Statutory Duty of the College

All maintained schools should provide daily collective worship for registered students, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents through written contact with the Principal.

The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) 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 precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the students. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the students 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.

Governors and staff at Caedmon College Whitby are mindful of the importance of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and seek to inculcate positive values through sound educational experience, within and beyond the curriculum, which explores the many facets of what it means to be human. In particular, they acknowledge the importance of spiritual development within a young person's education. The age range of the College makes it important to give careful consideration to the way in which Collective Worship is incorporated into assemblies, which are seen as an important opportunity for exercising moral and spiritual leadership.

Implementation

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

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the students
- Involve a range of speakers at different times during the year, including leaders from a variety of faith communities
- Reflect a variety of religious and non-religious world views. These should take account of views expressed by the major world faiths and those views held by both Humanists and Atheists.

It is recognised that practical difficulties make the provision of daily collective worship difficult:

- The halls can only accommodate one year group at a time. The sports halls are not suitable due to poor acoustics and lack of storage for seating. The College does not, therefore, have the necessary accommodation to provide a daily act of collective worship for the whole student body.
- Consultation of teaching staff, on a regular basis, has indicated that insufficient numbers are willing to lead a daily act of collective worship in tutor groups to make this a viable alternative. Those staff who are willing to do so, are encouraged to do so.

The pattern therefore is for all year groups to have one year group assembly each, per week, including post-16 students, between the times of 10.40am and 11.00am.

The agreed format for assemblies and collective worship is as follows:

- A calendar of themes is available for the year. This is used to plan assemblies, and also allows group tutors to build the themes into tutorial and curricular work, where appropriate.
- Group tutors are encouraged to include in tutorial sessions, led by or actively involving students wherever possible, a brief activity which gathers students together as a group in considering the week's theme, and possibly involving prayer or silent meditation.
- Wherever possible, suitable speakers from faith communities will be invited to contribute to collective worship.
- Year Leaders will continue to encourage students to contribute to assemblies.
- Assemblies will include silent prayer or meditation, and music will be used where appropriate.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The implementation and effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed regularly, involving staff and students. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the College.

The rights of withdrawal

Under no circumstances will students be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background. Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all students. Parents are asked to contact the Principal to discuss any concerns. The College continues to be responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from Collective Worship.