



Collective Worship Policy

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PRINCIPLES:

Leasowes High School, a member of the Invictus Education Trust, believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is legal requirements that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

In recent years the school have recognised the changing environment and amount of families that do not necessarily come from broadly ‘Christian’ backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of students at the school and in society.
- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

PRACTICE:

At Leasowes High School we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one main assembly each week for every student in the school. In addition form tutors lead tutor groups through 'Thought for the Day' readings and reflections during tutor time on the 4 remaining mornings or afternoons per week.

The Senior Staff and Heads of Year lead the assemblies each week which are delivered in houses. Once a term the whole school will meet together, normally at the beginning or end of term. Students are encouraged to take an active part leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at School Council meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up. Speakers may be invited into the school to lead assemblies also, and participate in the School Chaplaincy Team.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- All Form Tutors follow the Thought for the Day programme in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Headteacher.
- Parents of a student have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The School Improvement and Personnel Committee review this policy on a biannual basis. Compliance with Thought for the Day is monitored by Heads of Year and Senior Staff on a termly basis and the programme is reviewed every year.

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: September 2020