



Collective Worship

Reviewed: June 2018

Ratified by Governors: September 2018

Date due for renewal: June 2019

Wyvern Academy respects the rights of parents from different religious and cultural groups, e.g.

- if a predominance is placed upon Christianity during collective worship or R.E. lessons and if that is unacceptable to those children who follow a different faith, parents may request that their children be withdrawn from such collective worship or R.E. lessons;
- if the predominant faith in the School community is non-Christian and the majority of parents and school governors so wish, then the Headteacher can seek/obtain permission from the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education for the character of R.E. and worship, to be that of the predominant faith in the School.

Assemblies and other acts of collective worship contribute significantly to the delivery of some aspects of the National Curriculum - particularly, 'Statement on Shared Values', 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development' and certain aspects of the PSHE course. These are all realms which pupils have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

An Act of Collective Worship will take place regularly. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or form class groupings) may vary from week to week.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- 1) Inclusive in nature;
- 2) Broadly educational in content;
- 3) Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.

INCLUSIVE - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our multicultural society. However the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/carers;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- include active participation by pupils, parents and members of the local community – either in preparation or in performance.

EDUCATIONAL - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- reflect the aims of the School, and foster a sense of shared values;
- be valuable learning experiences and, as such, to be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning;
- to enhance, complement and extend the curricular work;
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the pupils;
- to provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

SPIRITUAL MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL - this means that we want our assemblies to:

- provide a brief period of reflection from the busy life of school, when pupils will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure;
- provide the pupils with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words. The writings of the world's great religions, their prophets and followers provide a source of meaningful stories and philosophies for life;
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers;
- have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.
- Main ECN Outcomes: Be healthy; Stay safe; Enjoy and achieve, Make a positive contribution.

This policy was approved by the governing body following consultation with staff, pupils, parents and SACRE (Standard Advisory Council for Religious Education).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Curriculum and Equality policy.