

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Assemblies Policy
(formally collective worship policy)

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Authorised by: J Morris _____ Date: 5.6.17 _____

Approved by: J Ash Edwards _____ Date: 12.7.17 _____

Custodian: J Morris _____ Date: 5.6.17 _____

SOCIAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL ASSEMBLIES POLICY

(FORMALLY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The statutory requirements for collective worship were set out originally in the 1944 Education Act and amended in 1988. The main requirement of the legislation is that all students shall, on each school day, take part in an act of collective worship that shall be of a “wholly or mainly ... Christian character.” Our assemblies will maintain the ‘spirit’ of this legislation.
- 1.2. Teachers have the right not to lead or participate in collective worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship by contacting the Head Teacher.
- 1.3. The term “collective worship” is not defined in law but it should be distinctive from ordinary school activities and should be concerned with reverence being paid to a divine being or power. There is nothing in law to say that collective worship must take place in assemblies involving large groups of students but schools and academies have often found this to be the most effective arrangement.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. OFSTED reports show that very few schools and academies comply with the legal requirement for collective worship. This is a result of lack of space for daily assemblies for all students and the unwillingness of many staff to lead daily acts of collective worship in their own tutor groups or classes as an alternative to daily assemblies. However, OFSTED reports also indicate that, in many schools, assemblies are often of very good quality.

3. SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP or Social, Moral and Spiritual

- 3.1. The Governors support the principle of excellent assemblies (including collective worship) and appreciate the contribution this can make to students’ moral and spiritual development. The Governors will make all reasonable efforts to meet the statutory requirements by providing assemblies of good quality consistent with the resources available in each academy in terms of staff and accommodation.