

WORSHIP POLICY

'A Commitment to Hope'

Title of Policy	Worship Policy
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1. Introduction

Queen Elizabeth's School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School with the Wimborne Minster Governors as the foundation body. The nature of our worship acknowledges the school's traditional Anglican links and heritage and strives to develop them. Worship of God together is seen as part of our everyday lives in school and all members of the school community should have the opportunity to experience prayer, worship and reflection. The school community comprises the students, all teaching and support staff and also parents and governors. The overall aim of Collective Worship at Queen Elizabeth's School is to nurture the potential for spirituality by offering space and stimulus and encouraging reflection and response. As well as fostering individual spirituality, Collective Worship gives an opportunity to affirm the values and ethos of the whole school and to develop a sense of independence and community.

2. Mission Statement

For over five hundred years, Queen Elizabeth's School has provided education and opportunity to young people. Supported by our Minster Foundation, we continue to develop the potential of every member of the School community by encouraging, nurturing and stimulating them and by celebrating their achievements. We do this, sustained by our commitment to a shared set of values based on the Christian faith and our shared commitment to hope.

3. The Aims of Worship

- To offer acts of worship, to which those participating can make a free will response; acknowledging the wonder of who God is and developing individual spiritual awareness.
- To enable all to participate in worship as a shared activity.
- To enable those of different traditions to share together and learn from each other.
- To celebrate all that is of worth in the community.
- To provide acts of worship that are linked to the School and the Christian Year.

4. The Objectives of Worship

To help members of the school community to:-

- take part in worship as a meaningful experience and develop an understanding of the nature of Christian worship especially in the Anglican tradition.

- reflect upon the meaning and purpose of human existence within a developing relationship between human beings and God;
- explore and develop students' own spirituality;
- foster sensitivity to the beliefs, values and practices of others within the school community;

5. Roles of Key Personnel

a) Headteacher and Governors

- The character and content of Collective Worship in a Voluntary Controlled School should be determined by the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. In this Voluntary Controlled School the Governors will play a particularly supportive role. A Worship Group operates in order to support and develop the place of Worship in the school. It includes Governors, staff, students and invited guests and reports through the Community and Environment Committee to the full Governing body.

b) Heads of House

- Ensure that Collective Worship is organised and conducted in a manner and with an ethos that supports this Worship Policy.
- Liaise with the Worship Coordinator over any matters relating to Collective Worship.
- Take charge of Collective Worship, ensure a prompt start, and keep notices to a minimum to allow maximum time for Worship.

c) Worship Coordinator

- Organises themes and speakers for Collective Worship.
- Liaises with Heads of House regarding themes.
- Liaises with the Worship Group on issues of School Worship.
- Organises all school services in the Minster, and special services in school.

d) Chaplains

- To support Collective Worship
- To liaise with the Worship Coordinator on matters of worship
- To liaise with Heads of House in respect of pastoral support of students
- To link with the TLC

e) Tutors

- To support their Head of House in House Collective Worship
- To deliver the daily act of Collective Worship
- To use the resources provided by the Worship Coordinator for the daily act of Collective Worship

6. Resources

Speakers are encouraged to use a range of resources to enhance their presentation, where appropriate. Visitors are frequently invited to lead acts of worship; they include local clergy, representatives of charities, and others involved in many different areas of Christian ministry. Visitors will always be supported with their presentations, and aspects of and issues with delivering to young people can be discussed. There is a daily act of Collective Worship and tutors receive the resources half termly in advance and weekly via the bulletin. The roles of tutors and those leading Collective Worship are shared annually with staff. Our best resource is our staff who are available for consultation and we have many outstanding tutors available for those wishing to see exemplary practice.

7. Special Services

Acts of Collective Worship to celebrate particular occasions are seen as important points in the school year; for example:

- Communion Service on the morning of Commemoration Day (School).
- Service of Welcome and Commemoration for new Year 9 students and new staff in October (Minster).
- Christmas Service in December (Minster).
- Remembrance Service (School)
- Holocaust Memorial Service (Minster)
- Ash Wednesday Communion Service (School).
- Easter Service (School or Minster).

Parents, Governors and other visitors are encouraged to attend any Service. Apart from the Welcome Service for Year 9 in October, attendance at all other Services is voluntary.