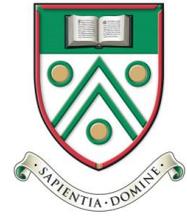


Langley Grammar School

Collective Worship Statement



a) Introduction and rationale

According to legislation, the aim of collective worship in schools is to provide students with opportunities 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 and moral issues
- respond personally to the worship offered.

b) Legal requirements

It is a legal requirement (1988 Education Reform Act) 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”. This is usually satisfied within a daily assembly but an assembly does not constitute a collective act of worship.

The school acknowledges the aim of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

c) Aims

Collective worship at Langley Grammar School aims to

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each student;
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others

d) Implementation

At Langley Grammar School space limitations prevent the whole school assembling together the school offers assemblies once a week to all year groups. Due to the diverse faiths represented within the school, our approach to assemblies involves themes of interest that are relevant to all faiths as opposed to worship focused on any one of these religions. This may take the form of looking at themes such as spirituality, world injustice and poverty. Where worship takes place, it is usually of a passive nature where students are invited to reflect upon their own beliefs.

Leaders from our local faith communities, particularly those from local churches, are regularly invited to conduct assemblies at the school. Staff and students are encouraged to contribute to assemblies.

Assembly themes are complemented by a 'Thought for the Week' which provides a stimulus for further discussion and debate within forms during registration periods.

e) Right of withdrawal

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 son or daughter from collective worship. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

f) Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body will review this statement annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Adopted by the Governing Body: 27 March 2012

Date of Review: March 2014