

Langley Grammar School

DRAFT Collective Worship Statement June 2018



1. Legal requirements

Collective worship is a legal requirement in maintained state schools (ie those directly funded through the local authority) under the Education Act 1996. In May 2013, the DfE published information for academies and free schools about providing religious education (RE) and collective worship. This information has now been archived, but remains current and states that:

- *An academy's funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools.*
- *Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves.*

Langley Grammar School's Funding Agreement (dated 24 March 2011) states that

- *The Academy Trust shall make provision for the teaching of religious education and a daily act of collective worship (Clause 24)*

According to legislation, 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". 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.

2. Aims

The school acknowledges the intent of the legislation but in common with most schools has considerable practical difficulties in meeting the requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation by seeking to provide high quality opportunities for consideration of spiritual, moral and ethical issues within a clear framework of values.

The intention of these opportunities is to:

- contribute to the students' spiritual, social, moral and cultural development;
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- allow reflection and response to 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 to mark occasions of significance, including religious festivals;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;

3. Implementation

Although the school has a range of venues suitable for assemblies, space limitations prevent the whole school congregating together except on rare occasions. The school therefore offers a pattern of weekly assemblies to all year groups.

A diverse range of faith backgrounds are represented within the school and our approach to assemblies therefore involves consideration of themes that are relevant to all faiths rather than worship focused on any one of these religions. This may take the form of looking at issues such as spirituality, world injustice and poverty within a framework which reflects fundamental British values.

Staff and students are encouraged to lead or contribute. Outside speakers, including leaders from local faith communities, occasionally contribute to assemblies; the school has a separate policy which sets out how external speakers are expected to work within the framework of fundamental British values.

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

4. Right of withdrawal

Teaching staff, especially those with form tutor responsibilities, are expected 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 itself.

Reviewed by Student, Staff and Community Committee	June 2018
Approved by Headteacher	July 2018
Date of Review:	June 2020