



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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**Term of policy:** Every 2 years

**Approved by:** LGB 26.6.24

**Date ratified:** BoT 17.7.24

**Next Review Date:** Summer 2026

**Author:** M. Manderson

**Sources:** NGA, The Key

**Online location:** SharePoint folder: Policies

**Consulted with JCC?** Yes  No

## Introduction

This policy replaces any previous policy and follows the DfE regulations.

As part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, we have carefully considered the impact of this policy on equality. The School will ensure that this policy is applied fairly to all employees and does not have a negative impact on students or staff with protected characteristics, race, sex, religion and belief, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

## **Foreword**

Rooks Heath School is a mixed 11 to 18 multicultural comprehensive in the London Borough of Harrow. This policy is formulated by the Headteacher, in consultation with staff and is monitored by other members of the school's Leadership team. The policy is subject to review by the school's Leadership team and is subject to approval by the governors of the school.

## **A Summary of the Legal Requirements**

### **Requirement to provide collective worship**

*... this provision applies to all students who ... are of statutory school age*

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, but not maintained special schools, must provide daily collective worship for all registered students.

### **Timing and Location**

- Collective worship may take place at any time during the school day. It may be organised for the whole school as a single act, or for separate age groups or existing school groups.

### **Application for Determination**

- If the Head of the school considers that worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is inappropriate for the student, the Head can apply, after consulting with the Governors, to the local SACRE for a determination. Rooks Heath follows Harrow's SACRE guidance.

### **Withdrawal**

- Parents may withdraw their child from collective worship. Teachers, too retain the right to withdraw from collective worship. The School aims to provide a form of collective worship that is acceptable to all parents, students and teachers.

### **The aims of Collective Worship**

- To foster a culture of respect amongst both student and staff
- To provide an informed educational experience
- To encourage student participation and opportunity for presentations
- To foster a thought-provoking atmosphere
- To foster a sense of community
- To recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our school and our community
- To encourage recognition, tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others

## **Structure**

### **Assembly/Collective Worship**

- There is one assembly for each Year Group per week; the Head of Year in charge of the Year Group leads the assembly. The Headteacher, Head of Year or other staff may lead assemblies. Personal Tutors are encouraged to arrange for their Tutor groups to present assemblies at least once a year. Outside speakers are often invited in to lead assemblies. The person leading assembly should maintain a balance between the spiritual and moral content and the notices. He or she should also give the students time for silent worship and/or reflection.

### **Daily Act - Thought for the Day**

- The Form Tutor leads this and there is a structural programme to ensure that all students have the opportunity for silent worship and/or reflection. Form Tutors carry out a formal registration with all students sitting quietly and 'Thought for The Day' follows this. Pastoral and administrative work follows.

### **Special days and acts of remembrance**

- Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship e.g. Christmas, Diwali, Eid, and Remembrance Day. Assemblies should recognise the importance of such events to the school and wider community, encouraging inclusion, cultural diversity and encouraging empathy. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if students are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

### **Records**

- Heads of Year keep a detailed record of the content and focus of each assembly. Wherever possible, assemblies are linked to the PSHE programme.

### **Available room for Prayer / Quiet reflection**

- Rooks Heath will make available a room for use for prayer / quiet reflection for any group or individual who requests this and can take part during social times. Access will be restricted during curriculum learning times / activities.

### **Dissemination:**

- The policy is shared with staff through the staff handbook. Parents are advised of school policies and have access to said documents via the schools' website or upon request. In line with school policy, we endeavour to give all staff and students equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ability, age, or social background.