



# Royal Grammar School

## Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed by the Governing Body	March 2023
Date to be reviewed	March 2026
Date of last review	March 2023
Governors Committee accountable for review	Education
Senior Leadership Team member accountable for review	ISW

## **Collective Worship Policy**

The Royal Grammar School is a religiously diverse school with a Christian foundation. Collective worship is delivered through the provision of Assemblies for the whole school once a week, . There is also a regular pattern of Head of Year Assemblies on other mornings. There is the opportunity in this pastoral time for Form Tutors to deliver a "Form Time Activity". There is a structured plan with stimulus material provided.

Religious assembly would often be led by a member of staff, students, or external speakers sharing their faith. Other topical talks are also delivered.experiences

The school believes that an opportunity for all the students to gather together as a community is an important aspect of school life, in order to the school values & ethos, other year groups, and issues that affect the whole school. Assemblies provide this opportunity and they include an act of collective worship as required by Government but which we undertake as something that is important in the lives of individuals promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The Headmaster is responsible for arranging collective worship but may delegate this as appropriate.

### **Our Aims**

The aim of the Collective Worship Policy is to provide the opportunity for students and staff:

- to celebrate achievement and special times
- to reflect on values that promote shared social and moral responsibility
- to develop a community spirit and a common ethos
- to consider different spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- to consider British Fundamental Values
- to exercise understanding and respect for others and their beliefs
- to experience a shared collective act with a religious character

### **Implementation of the Policy**

One Assembly is held in the Queen's Hall at the start of the school day each week to enable the whole school to be involved:

- Monday Years 7, 8 & 9.
- Tuesday Years 10 & 11
- Wednesday year 12 & 13

These Assemblies are led by a member of the Senior Team and may include:

- The singing of a hymn for which books are provided
- A short talk which lasts 3-5 minutes and may be secular or religious in content and always Seeks to develop the students' spiritual and moral awareness
- A short period of quiet reflection
- Any urgent notices for the day and any recognition that is due
- Focus around school values

The assembly rota is organised by the Deputy Headmaster who seeks to establish a broad and balanced content to the assembly programme. There may be times when a key moral or social issue needs to be

addressed or there may be special occasions when a particular message needs to be conveyed. This could be in response to a critical incident that has occurred affecting the school community.

All students attend assemblies and it is also expected that they will listen to the talks whilst showing due respect to the speaker. Talks are given by members of staff, Prefects and other pupils, or outside speakers.

Collective Worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- Be appropriate to the whole school community
- Involve the students
- Include a variety of elements at different times, for example:
  - outside speakers
  - topical issues
  - active participation
  - drama, music and other cultural items
  - reinforcing and sharing the school's values
  - the view of faiths other than Christianity

Collective worship is also delivered through our Remembrance Service, Carol Concert and Iftar Event. In addition, we run a Christian Union, Sikh Society and Islamic Society.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Any parent/carer wishing to exercise this right must submit their request in writing to the Headmaster. This does not mean that the student will be withdrawn from the whole of an assembly which may incorporate a variety of elements other than the collective act of worship. Provision for students not taking part in collective worship will be dealt with on an individual basis. Members of staff may be granted permission by the Headmaster to withdraw from that part of an assembly which has a collective act of worship. Students from the age of 16 may decide whether or not to attend the collective worship element of an assembly.

### **Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

The policy will be monitored and evaluated by assessing the balance of assemblies delivered on an annual basis by the Senior Team. The nature and quality of assemblies will be discussed and reviewed using student voice.