

# **Moulton School and Science College**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

This policy expresses the aims and principles of collective worship here at Moulton School. It sets out before the school community strategies that may be used to ensure that the aims are met and the underlying principles remain our focus.

An assembly is a meeting of members of the school community, as a whole school, or by House, Year, Form, or other specific group. The purpose of assemblies includes giving information, notices, reiterating school rules etc and is not in itself an act of worship. As is clearly stated in the legal section, it is still the law that children shall take part in a daily act of worship and therefore this policy outlines how collective worship is to be incorporated within assemblies and meetings of tutor groups on a daily basis.

Worship in its broadest sense is to honour, value and praise someone or something of worth. At Moulton School, the overall aim of worship is to provide experiences, which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self worth and the uniqueness of the individual. Promoting a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community.

For many in the school community, the focus for worship is God. Moulton School acknowledges and celebrates our nation's Christian heritage, ethos, identity and practices. Moulton School is also clear that for collective worship to have true integrity, it is important to recognise that the School is not a worshipping community, but rather a worship facilitating community. Our acts of collective worship include gatherings of students, staff and others from diverse religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds. We cannot presume any particular religious commitment.

Collective worship should be seen as distinct from Religious Education. RE is a subject with schemes of work designed to progress students' understanding about religions and their learning from religion. Collective acts of worship will often cover religious matters and themes, but their overriding focus is to draw people to reflect on their own spiritual development.

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### **Aims**

It is our aim at Moulton School that collective worship should develop the individual by:

- Developing a sense of enquiry and a search for meaning
- Provide opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer

It is our aim at Moulton School that collective worship should strengthen the school community by:

- Making explicit the values and assumptions that underpin the day-to-day life of Moulton School
- Recognise and celebrate individual and collective achievements

It is our aim at Moulton School that collective worship should prepare students for life beyond Moulton School by:

- Foster and encourage charitable giving
- Consider and celebrate the richness of world faith traditions
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings

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### **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the headteacher who after consultation with the governing body has appointed Alistair Day with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the head teacher has appointed a collective worship sub-committee with the responsibility for co-ordinating collective worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that worship contains elements which focus on love and compassion for our fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of collective worship at Moulton School take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The head teacher and governors, on advice from the worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of students in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between acts of collective worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an act of collective worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be made clear to distinguish the two activities.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Moulton School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the headteacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship in Moulton School. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

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### **Organisation**

Acts of collective worship contained within an assembly are normally led by the Head of House/Deputy Head of House but may also be led by tutors or students. On those days when a tutor group is not in an assembly, the form tutor is encouraged to further develop the theme for the week with their tutor group as the basis of a collective act of worship.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of collective worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for collective worship. Themes are published at the beginning of the term, with suggestions as to how the theme can be developed from week to week. It is expected that those leading worship each week will relate their worship to the published theme and that tutors will re-enforce this during tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of each term the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. This pattern is flexible as on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

### **Resources**

Some resources for collective worship are kept in the Staff Room and a short story to illustrate the weekly theme is attached each week to the staff bulletin for use in assemblies or tutor-led reflections.

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