

Lathom High School Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Lathom High School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of Lathom High School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Lathom High School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Students:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- reflect on personal values

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Lathom High School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of students by reflecting on the work done in class and through form time activities. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

- The Headteacher along with delegated teachers draw up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
- The Headteacher and/or delegated teachers observe some of these acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) each term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

(A description of the variety of groupings may also be included here or in an appendix.)

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors may be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. *(The appendix might include details such as a weekly leadership pattern)*

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students.

A list of the assembly rota and themes are shared with all staff at the start of each academic year, and weekly themes sent to all along with appropriate suggested activities. This is to ensure that there is continuity and progression, and to enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance *(Included in the appendix)* on acts of Collective Worship at Lathom High School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the students' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the students who belong to these Faiths.

(See section 4 of this document for 'Visitor Guidance')

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in

acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used (*included in the appendix*). Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the students.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc.)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any student who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.