



## St Laurence School Policy on Collective Worship 2017

### Introduction

The Governors wish to ensure that Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of the School and promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students. St Laurence is an academy school company limited by guarantee with distinctive joint foundations in the Salisbury Diocesan Educational Trust and the Lord Fitzmaurice's Educational Foundation. The Governors are obliged to uphold the object of the company and believe that Collective Worship needs to be organised on the assumption that there are students with Christian faith but also students with other faiths and those with no faith.

"Collective Worship" includes the wider tutorial programme as well as the regular gatherings of Houses. Programmes such as the Big Question and the termly discussion panels help link these aspects together, so that collective worship is seen as an interactive and integral element of daily school life.

### Framework

Collective Worship needs to be spiritual by:

- enabling students to gather in an atmosphere of stillness, wonder and welcome and to reflect upon the deeper, spiritual side of life.
- providing an opportunity to engage with some of the great 'why?' questions of life.
- offering different ways of approaching these great mysteries, through an understanding of "christian values" and "within the context of christian belief and practice".
- engaging with all the senses, and it may include silence, prayer, poetry, prose, music, dance, and the visual.

Collective Worship needs to be inclusive by:

- involving all students in Years 7 – 13 on a regular basis and through relevant themes.
- being student centred and related to their age, experience and concerns.
- acknowledging and encouraging understanding of diversity and respecting a range of humanitarian principles and beliefs among students and staff alike.
- avoiding attempts to indoctrinate or proselytise.
- fostering a sense of community within and beyond the School.

Collective Worship needs to be educational by:

- providing a learning experience of real quality, relating to fundamental issues and mysteries.
- being consistent with the other Governors' policies as appropriate.
- evoking a response to and spiritual awareness of the theme.

### Roles and Responsibilities

The arrangements for Collective Worship are the responsibility of the Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher:

A member of the Senior Team is responsible for:

- co-ordinating the schedule and themes for Collective Worship in consultation with the Spiritual Development Group and the student Ethos Group and in accordance with the Governors' policy.
- developing links with local churches and voluntary organisations.
- issuing notes of guidance to all speakers who contribute to the delivery of Collective Worship, whether visitors or members of staff.

Approval: Community and Ethos  
Review: May 2019



- facilitating the on-going evaluation of impact and the annual programme of Collective Worship in accordance with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework and in collaboration with the named governor.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- the policy is implemented with the best use of staff and facilities in mind whilst recognising that the physical circumstances of the School preclude a daily act of Collective Worship for all students.
- the delivery of Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated by the nominated Governor and that a report on this is made to one of the meetings of the Full Governors during the Spring term of each year.