



Soham Village College

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Principles:

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to our school are from different nationalities and faiths. Some practice their chosen religions other do not. In addition there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should notify the Head of School.

Aims:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Reflect on the moral values of honesty, kindness, care for those worse off, and good citizenship
- Express thankfulness for what we have, and explore reasons for giving to others
- Mark celebrations of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths

Practice:

At Soham Village College we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There are two assemblies each week for every pupil in the school. On the remaining mornings form tutors lead tutor groups through activities and appropriate reflections during tutor time. The Head of school or other senior staff lead one assembly each week whilst Heads of year and Heads of houses lead the other assembly in alternate weeks. Additional whole school assemblies are also scheduled during the school year.

The school year is divided into themes which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can plan around the themes accordingly.

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading in collective worship at calendared times of the year.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The Head of School is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship.
- All Form Tutors follow the personal development programme in tutor time.

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