COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
Preparatory School

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues including the promotion of fundamental British values.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs, with tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To teach pupils how to worship and provide an opportunity for pupils to worship.

Collective worship

Worship is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

As a non-denominational school with a multi-faith community, assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to everyone's individual faith and beliefs to enable everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Organisation of collective worship

Collective worship forms part of morning assemblies. Infant and Junior assemblies are held separately but follow similar themes.

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way, and include a period of calm reflection to foster an environment and attitude of tolerance and respect of different beliefs and cultures. They are regarded as a special time, and pupils should behave in an appropriate way. They are expected to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in reflection time and songs. Assemblies provide an opportunity to present ideas for pupils to explore and consider in relation to their own feelings and beliefs.

The assemblies are conducted by the Head Mistress, the Head of the Preparatory School and members of staff. Occasionally, a visitor or pupils may lead or have an input in to the assembly.

Assemblies are planned in advance and a list of assembly themes delivered is stored on the Prep Shared drive. The content of the assembly is up to the discretion of the lead person.

Some assemblies reflect pupil achievements and learning. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all pupils are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Approved by the Head Mistress April 2024

EYFS

Collective Worship arrangements will be adapted to ensure activities are developmentally appropriate and inclusive for pupils of this age range, using stories, songs and shared reflection to support early spiritual,

moral and social development. Social and emotional development will also be fostered through weekly Golden Girl assemblies during which each individual girl is celebrated for exemplifying the school values. Pre-School will attend as appropriate, determined by the class teacher and Head of EYFS.

The EYFS and Key Stage 1 have a "Golden Girls" assembly every week. Teachers nominate two pupils from their class to receive this special award from the Head of the Preparatory School. Pupils are encouraged to bring in achievements from out of school and these are shared and celebrated. This assembly also celebrates the success of all the pupils who have earned House Points. The House Point bear is decorated with a coloured ribbon to indicate the House which has accumulated the most House Points over the week.

In Key Stage 2, the Head Mistress holds an assembly weekly and presents Merit awards to two pupils in each class for a variety of chosen reasons, such as working hard, being organised or being a good friend. The Deputy Head and Assistant Head (with responsibility for KS2) of the Preparatory School lead a weekly assembly when a cup is awarded to the House which has accumulated the most House Points over the week. House Captains present certificates to pupils who have achieved bronze, silver, gold and platinum awards. This assembly also celebrates the achievements of pupils in and out of school.

All pupils attend four assemblies each week and have one form time. Teaching staff attend three assemblies per week.

Right of withdrawal

All pupils are expected to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from collective worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly.

The Head of the Preparatory School will keep a record of all pupils who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Head of the School.

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the policy review cycle.

Reviewed by Helen Mortimer: May 2021

Approved by the Head Mistress: May 2021

Reviewed by S. Gibbons April 2024

Approved by the Head Mistress April 2024

Reviewed and updated by the Head of the Preparatory School and the Assistant Head with responsibility for the EYFS. July 2026