

POLICY STATEMENT : COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

RATIONALE

- Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1993, DFE Circular 1/94 of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) ie all pupils in maintained schools, including Sixth Form students, should take part in daily collective worship, which does not have to be held at the start of the school day.
- The School's inability to truly fulfil the legal requirement ie the logistical implications of a large school population with limited large assembly areas, and the efficient use of time available.
- The rejection, by Ofsted Inspectors, of the school's attempts to fulfil legal obligations by a "Thought for the Day" conducted in Tutor Groups.

PURPOSES

- To bring staff and pupils together for a common purpose; develop community spirit.
- To think about values, beliefs and other issues felt to be part of the educational process.
- To allow for collective expressions of joy and sadness, thankfulness and need.
- To explore the spiritual area of experience.

GUIDELINES

- The term "collective" has been applied to the Year Group.
- Each year will have an assembly approximately once per fortnight to be taken by senior year staff and members of the Senior Management Board.
- The term "worship" has been interpreted generally, as per SACRE, ie. consideration of issues of "worth", and provision of opportunities for individual reflection.
- A termly assembly rota will be published.
- Pupil participation will be encouraged.

CONCLUSION

It is hoped that the breadth of issues covered will preclude the need for either staff or pupils to exercise their right to withdraw from daily collective worship

E Lyne, Senior Deputy Head
October 2006