

TITLE: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MODEL POLICY STATEMENT

This is a Local Authority model policy

Local changes have been made to the model policy by the College **Yes**

The model policy used is **N/A**

Policy Owner:	Vice Principal	Review period:	3 years
Last Review:	June 2015	Approving Committee:	Curriculum 10.06.2015
Next Review:	Summer term 2018	Latest FGB adoption:	15.07.2015

IMPACT OF THIS POLICY

This policy informs our everyday practice and ethos with regards to daily acts of collective worship. It details what the expectations are in terms of provision and entitlement for children.

Introduction

At Tavistock College we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our students.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship at Tavistock College are to:

- ❖ provide our students with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- ❖ promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- ❖ celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our students
- ❖ help students to develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- ❖ help students to develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- ❖ support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum (2014) states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils within a school. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At Tavistock College we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include love, joy, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life. Underpinning these we have been looking at democracy, tolerance, equality and understanding with a view to developing key co-operative values in line with the College ethos. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have students from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many students have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all students feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Tavistock College is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship and Religious Studies lessons. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Principal.

Context of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Tavistock College takes place in a range of settings from tutor time, to assemblies and lessons, in order to provide different learning experiences for students. Acts of Collective Worship take place in the broader framework of school assemblies and are planned thematically. The usual pattern is outlined below (at least one element occurs each day):

- **Assembly (once a week for each year group)** – Introduction and consideration of the theme which is values driven and offers a period of quiet reflection
- **Tutor time (4 days per week)** – Activities to promote discussion and reflection of the theme as a collective tutor group
- **Lessons** – Opportunities are created to model the theme in our behaviours and how we function as human beings in a range of situations as well as linking the theme to learning and the real world in specific subjects.
- **RS / PSHE** – Integral elements of the curriculum for all students– offering opportunities to reflect and consider a range of religious beliefs and other significant world views and to have empathy and understanding of people with views that differ to our own, including developing of thinking skills that inform moral decision making.
- **School Pastors (on site twice a week)** – The school pastors are a group of local community volunteers from our local churches who are on site during lunchtimes. Their role is to speak with the students and encourage them to reflect on their everyday experiences in a supportive and non-judgemental way.

This pattern enables our students to learn in different settings and to make an active contribution to our acts of worship. The school frequently invites visitors to play an active role in our acts of worship and we are currently developing a resource bank (based on our themes), which includes stories, poems, music and other support materials to enable our students to learn more effectively. We do keep a record of our acts of Worship.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our students in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development throughout their time at the College.