



TITLE: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MODEL POLICY STATEMENT

This **is not** a Local Authority model policy

Local changes have been made to the model policy by the College **N/A**

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

Policy Owner:	Assistant Principal	Review period:	Biennial
Last Review:	Spring Term 2022	LSB Approval:	18.05.2022
Next Review:	Spring term 2024	Latest AC adoption:	April 2020

Public Sector Equality Duty

This policy is written with due regard for the public sector equality duty that is placed on all schools. Tavistock College will make reasonable adjustments for members of the school community with SEND and protected characteristics and guard against discriminatory practices and victimisation to ensure no-one is treated unfairly.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

TAVISTOCK COLLEGE

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 pupils.

Aims

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

- provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote pupils' 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 pupils.
- help pupils develop and understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help pupils 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 Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

NB: Consideration has also been given to the non-statutory advice published in DfE Circular 1/94(1994).



Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, it is always good practice to arrange to discuss this with parents if a request emerges. There may be issues about a particular aspect of the programme which may be allayed after discussion. If the parent still feels they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. This must be allowed by the school, which also needs to provide alternative activity and supervision for this pupil, although this must be at no additional cost to the school or local authority.

The value of collective worship

The school sees the time set aside for collective worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of our school and to the society and world in which we live. We aim for our programme of collective worship to enrich the life of the school in many ways and try to be creative and imaginative in organising this provision. We believe that collective worship:

- Offers space for the school community to learn, grow and celebrate together
- Provides an opportunity for personal reflection on individual life or wider issues
- Nurtures all aspects of SMSC development, especially spiritual development
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of fundamental values, including British values, and those of the International Cooperative Alliance
- Enables us to meet and engage with the local community through participants in assemblies
- Responds to topical or local issues in a flexible and sensitive way
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to develop their own abilities in preparing, presenting or evaluating assemblies.

We see collective worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, and acts of service.



Organisation of Collective Worship

Students will attend one year-based assembly per week; Y8 Monday, Y9 Tuesday, Y10 Wednesday, Y11 Thursday and Y7 Friday (Y12 & Y13 have a similar programme, running on Monday of the following week). These assemblies will be led by senior and middle leaders, Heads of Year, students, and visitors according to theme and need. In addition, during their time at Tavistock College, each year group has at least two opportunities to attend a celebratory gathering at the Parish Church of St Eustachius in Tavistock, with these occasions led by clergy, school staff and students. On other days all pupils gather in form groups and participate in a structured programme that contributes to students' spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. There are also periodic "House" assemblies to recognise students' achievement and success.

Principles and practice at our school

These are our key principles in planning collective worship:

- All children will take part in collective worship daily.
- All members of staff will be given the opportunity to lead collective worship.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to take a lead and to participate.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in collective worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world,
- the deeds of humanity and the celebration of religious festivals. They will also relate to the
- children's interests, classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld
- by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be presented in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry,
- drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will be opportunity to recognise the distinctiveness of the many faiths and world
- views shared in our community.
- The collective worship will, at certain points, include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The college will meet sometimes in year group cohorts and sometimes in smaller groups.

Reflection and prayer

Collective worship should include opportunity for reflection. This may include the use of prayers. Sensitivity should be used to ensure that prayer or other forms of spirituality are as inclusive as possible. Assumptions or assertions about specific doctrinal beliefs may make it difficult for members of some faith communities, or pupils without religious affiliation, to participate. It may be introduced with a phrase that recognises pupils will use the words in different ways. Some may reflect the words of the prayer in their own thoughts. Others, with no specific religious faith, will be able to reflect on the theme and the aspiration of the words without necessarily implying belief in a deity or conformity to a particular religious tradition.



Visitors

Visitors can enrich collective worship and build partnership with the local community. We invite members of faith communities, other ethical traditions and community groups to share in the programme. We ensure full safeguarding procedures are in place. Regular visitors to school who have access to children should have DBS enhanced disclosure. We will ensure that extremist or intolerant views, of any political or religious kind, will not be allowed in assemblies or elsewhere and we will follow appropriate safeguarding policies as appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to access to collective worship. All children will have access to appropriate resources within the school. These will reflect a multicultural society, without stereotyping or discrimination. We are mindful of the need to promote the inclusion of all protected characteristics and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy and guidance will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by all stakeholders of the school including pupils, parents, staff and governors.