



THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date of last review:	July 2018	Review period:	2 years
Date of next review:	Summer 2020	Owner:	Curriculum Committee
		Approval:	



TBSHS: A truly all-round education



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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UNESCO Associated Schools



Collective Worship at The Bishop's Stortford High School builds moral citizens of good character.

The School will provide Daily Collective Worship for registered students (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). At The Bishop's Stortford High School, Collective Worship is achieved through either a Formal Assembly or a Thought for the Day in Form Time. The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the Daily Collective Worship after consulting with the governing body. Assembly themes are created by the Assistant Head (Pastoral) and the Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship whilst the Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship is responsible for Thought For The Day.

The Daily Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the students. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the students to take part in Christian collective worship, the Head Teacher may apply to the Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. Collective Worship recognizes and values the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy. Collective worship, whether in Assembly or Tutor Time, will be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students, include a variety of elements at different times and involve the students. In Collective Worship, those students who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those students who do not have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal internalised response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stories. The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually. Staff and students can apply to the Head Teacher to ask for consideration to be withdrawn from a daily act of worship. Students withdrawn from a daily act of worship will be given an alternative curriculum. All staff are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

At The Bishop's Stortford High School, Collective Worship provides a wonderful opportunity for reflection on:

- The formation of good moral character and the building of a good society.
- Christian beliefs, practices, virtues and values.
- The Seven Fundamental British Values.
- Personal and collective values inside and outside the Community.
- Inspirational local, national and international examples of good citizens of all faith and no faith.
- A story from an appropriate guest speaker.
- The Local, National and International community in Bishop's Stortford, the UK and the world.
- How students can be effective local, national and global citizens in their School Community and beyond.
- The School Community, the School Ethos, what it means to belong and the Black and Gold Spirit.
- Moral and ethical issues experienced by people of all faiths, atheists and agnostics.
- Issues of (and standing up for) fairness, justice, equality, being the best we can be.
- Celebrating success and valuing the vulnerable.
- The charitable work of the School through Interact and Rotary.
- "That which unites us is greater than that which divides us." (Jo Cox M.P.)
- The Work of the United Nations and Global and National Themed Days.
- Practical responsibility at home and beyond School.
- The big questions of life.
- Supporting students in difficulty providing them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses.
- Issues of mental and physical well-being, resilience, compassion, empathy and growth.
- Emotional intelligence.
- Challenges in the modern world to living a moral life.
- Remembrance of the sacrifice of previous generations.
- Looking to the past, the present and the future.
- Humility and honesty.
- Death and bereavement.
- Life after death.