



THAMESVIEW SCHOOL

**Thong Lane, Gravesend,
Kent DA12 4LF**

Collective Worship Policy

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THAMESVIEW SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

OUR STATUTORY DUTY

All maintained schools such as Thamesview are required to provide daily collective worship and reflection for registered students – apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents. At Thamesview this will usually be provided within an assembly and is also part of some Form Tutor periods and some lessons.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the Education Act 1996) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

The Legal Framework for Collective Worship

The legal requirements are set out in the Education Act 1996 and the Collective Worship in Schools DfE publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

CONTEXT

Thamesview School serves a community where a variety of faiths is represented. Families who send their children to the School are in the main 'nominally' Christian. Some of our pupils come from practising Christian families. In addition, we serve children who have religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to take part in collective worship, we need to consider the variety of faiths, cultural traditions and backgrounds from which our pupils come and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert pupils to a particular religious tradition. The faith background (including those of no faith) of both the pupils and the staff is valued and respected at all times. It is our objective that all participants will derive benefit from the collective worship which takes place within the School.

AIMS**For the School:**

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Thamesview School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

For the Students:

We also intend that collective worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Explore together universal values such as courage, compassion, justice and peace
- Explore relationships between individuals and the god they choose to worship
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

IMPLEMENTATION

All staff and students are encouraged to participate in, and to take a leading role in, assemblies and collective worship and reflection.

Collective worship will be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students.

Collective worship will normally be delivered in Community assemblies using themes suggested by staff and students at different times. The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and other aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff

leading acts of collective worship in the form of assemblies plan these around the weekly themes and use a variety of resources to make these experiences interesting and meaningful to pupils. Exploring the significance of school-based, local, national and international developments will also be encouraged and may therefore lead to slight amendments to the programme.

The Headteacher, other senior staff and Community Leaders lead the year group assemblies each week. Whole school acts of worship or celebration take place at Easter, Summer and at Christmas.

Collective worship will normally take place at the start of the school day in order to establish a calm and reflective start to learning. These times may be held during tutor group sessions as small reflective student led activities, and will not normally take the form of a large group focus.

WITHDRAWAL

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of collective worship or reflection may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school in so far as it is deemed possible and appropriate to do so.

This policy links in with the Single Equality Scheme (SES).

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy was agreed and adopted at a Governors' Meeting held on

_____ (date)

Signed: _____ (Governor)

Signed: _____ (Headteacher)

The policy will be formally reviewed in _____ (date)