



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**This policy was adopted by the Interim Executive Board/
Governing Body of Laisterdyke Business & Enterprise
College on:-**

Date: Monday 15th September 2014

Signed:

Ros Garside

**Ros Garside
(Chair of IEB/ Governing Body)**

Next review date: September 2016

**Named person in college responsible for policy: Jen
McIntosh**

What do we understand collective worship to be?

A daily opportunity for collective worship is much, much more than a statutory right for students; it is a vital element in personal development, personal achievement. As such our practice in this area must be at the heart of our Laisterdyke achievement-centred ethos.

Whether students practise a personal faith, are part of an external faith-based community or profess no faith, opportunities to discuss and reflect on those elements of life which are of value and worth - and how these shape our experience of life and our world - are critical in developing young people who are confident in their personal identity, proud of their heritage and ready to engage proactively with the world in which they live.

It is this understanding which underpins the aims of our collective worship policy which has been developed in partnership with our governing body.

What are the aims of collective worship here at Laisterdyke?

We have three aims:

- To promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a variety of learning opportunities.
- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life as young citizens through developing those values which promote both individual development and a sense of belonging.
- To provide inspiration through the consideration of concepts, principles and conduct which are of intrinsic worth.

What is the legal framework in which we work?

DFES Circular 1/94 requires a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character for all students. At Laisterdyke we recognise that the college community is a collection of people from a variety of cultural, faith and non-faith backgrounds and that our practice in this area needs to be sensitive, inclusive and meaningful to all.

Thus we believe that our students' developmental needs with regards to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC) are best met through a determination for an exemption from worship of a broadly Christian nature. We look to provide an inclusive daily act suitable for all faiths and none.

We do not pre-suppose shared beliefs or seek uniform responses from students. Whilst there is a commonality of purpose, we cater for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

Parents in all schools have a legal right to withdraw their children wholly or partly from collective worship.

How is collective worship organised at Laisterdyke?

The following provides the framework for collective worship delivery.

- i. Every day a specific year group has an assembly mostly conducted by Year Achievement Leaders. These can take many forms but focus on achievement, ethos, personal development and communal celebration/reflection.
- ii. There is a daily form time slot from Y7 to Y13. This can be a time of quiet for personal reflection/ worship centring on the 'thought for the week', a time for discussion of various sorts - all reflecting the three aims.
- iii. Periodic College assemblies are conducted by senior staff. These often pick up on major religious traditions and college events.
- iv. Special events such as presentation evenings are calendared and often encompass parental participation.
- v. If visitors assist in or attend collective worship of any sort, suitability is thoroughly checked beforehand and any contributions are appropriate to the occasion.
- vi. All students and staff can access our Reflection Room during social times for individual or collective worship.
- vii. Students' contributions, readings, performances, music, artefacts, visual aids, dialogue and creative silence may feature in the worship.
- viii. A schedule covering all year groups is prepared each year linking 'Thought for the Week' - our thematic approach - to fortnightly

PSHE sessions as well as daily tutor time and assemblies. These 'thoughts' may be taken from Appendix 1.

What guidance is followed regarding putting collective worship policy into practice?

Collective worship opportunities are developed in line with the following:

- a. Consideration given to the involvement, enjoyment, attention and reaction of students
- b. Developing respect and tolerance
- c. Developing a positive response to shared experience
- d. Engendering a sense of challenge
- e. Creating an atmosphere which matches the theme
- f. Making a contribution to individual and community sense of well-being
- g. Creating a sense of occasion
- h. Ensuring good order
- i. Fulfilling a place in the overall plan of the college
- j. Including affirmation from staff
- k. Enrichment of students' experience

How will the policy be monitored and reviewed?

The Interim Executive Board/Governing Body liaises with the Principal to ensure that the policy is reviewed on a regular basis and that the quality of provision is accurately assessed and improved as necessary.

Appendix 1

Example themes for whole year group, key stage and form-based collective worship opportunities

Achievement and talent

Good and Evil

Autumn, Harvest and Thankfulness

Heroes and Heroines

Beginnings

I believe...

Bridges

Victory and defeat

Voices from the past

In the news

Joy and sorrow

Choice and Decision

Dreams

Love and Hate

Mysteries and Puzzles

Exploring the Future

Exploring the Past

New Year Resolutions

Old and New

Freedom and Responsibility

A Person who has influenced me

Why are we here?

College and Community

Strengths and Weaknesses

The college also recognises and incorporates major religious festivals across the year as appropriate and themes sometimes reflect these eg Eid Ul Addha - sacrifice, Christmas - gift-giving, Diwali - festivals of light.