

# THE FRIARY SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Issue No: 4  
Date: Autumn 2008  
Review: 2012

This policy is designed to support School Aims numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and objectives 5, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

### General Principles

The Friary School is committed to collective worship as a central activity which supports the aims of the school. The school fully recognises that collective worship is at the heart of the educational curriculum, and of the moral and spiritual development of our pupils.

The Education Act 1988 requires schools to deliver a daily act of collective worship for every pupil, unless they are withdrawn by their parents. The act of worship can take place at any time in the school day, and can be delivered in whatever grouping the school chooses. The Act also requires that in any one term most acts of collective worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, in other words reflecting the broad tradition of Christian belief, but they must not be distinctive of any one Christian denomination. All acts of collective worship must also take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.

Subsequent explanation of the Education Act requirement also draws the distinction between 'collective' and 'corporate' worship. **Corporate worship** is that undertaken by a faith community, where the participants share a commitment to a common set of beliefs and attitudes. **Collective worship** in our school context can be defined as recognising the spiritual dimension of life, examining all that is of value and honour.

Acts of collective worship at The Friary School:

- are appropriate to an educational setting
- are given appropriate status
- provide a sense of occasion separate from other school activities, including assemblies
- are different in character from worship among a voluntary group with beliefs in common
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- are respectful of pupil and staff integrity
- are inclusive protecting the rights of individuals and minorities
- are challenging and enjoyable
- are relevant to the needs of pupils
- encourage pupil participation
- enable pupils to practise certain skills such as being still, listening, participating, saying or singing words together
- foster a sense of community and shared values
- provide opportunities for pupils to respond to specific accounts of religious experience (personal, biographical, scriptural) and to engage in, or observe, religious activities (prayer, singing, silence)

- occasionally contain elements drawn from faiths other than Christianity or from broad human experience which is not explicitly religious
- provide variety in both content and delivery.

### **Practice**

The school approach to collective worship takes into account the general principles set out in the introduction, and the system is as follows:

- Morning registration is 25 minutes long to allow for the delivery of collective worship.
- Each year group from Years 7-11 has one weekly assembly in the Theatre, conducted normally by the Head of Year and senior staff on a rotation. Visiting speakers are invited occasionally.
- On a further two occasions each week, each year group has a 5 minute “Thought for the Day”, delivered within the tutor groups. Materials for these sessions are developed by the Heads of Year working with their year teams. Form tutors are responsible for the delivery of “Thought for the Day” to their tutor groups.
- Records of assemblies in the Theatre are kept in an assembly record folder in the front office.

### **Sixth Form Assemblies**

The format for Sixth Form assemblies is as follows:

- There is an assembly for both Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students on a weekly basis. This is conducted by the Head of Sixth and at times senior staff.
- Remaining time in morning registration involves one occasion when each group has a thought for the day delivered by tutors.