



SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY AND GUIDELINES

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This policy is available on our website or hard copies are available from the school office.



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INTRODUCTION

This policy is implemented within the spirit of the school's Mission Statement:

"Through God We Care"

The ethos of Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, embracing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the traditions of the Anglican Church and this largely finds expression in the cycle of the Church's liturgical year.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a special time in the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God.

PHILOSOPHY

We are privileged to be able to promote and develop Christian beliefs, practices and values within the whole school family, wider communities and within our teaching and learning. The teaching and the ministry of Jesus enables us to bring hope, joy and compassion to our students and others. We will ensure "Deus Spes Nostra" (God is our Hope), which Sir Thomas Boteler acknowledged 500 years ago, and "Through God We Care" is at the heart of our school community today.

RATIONALE

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the founding Trust Deed of the school; this requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- DfE – Circular 1/94 states that "Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for students to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; and to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered."
- All maintained schools, including Church schools, must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all students.
- Pupils are expected to attend all acts of Collective Worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds; the school expects that withdrawal will only take place following discussion between parents and the Headteacher.
- Each member of staff holds a National Society Contract which includes Clause 8a on Religious Education and Clause 8b on respecting the character of the school's foundation.

- We acknowledge and welcome a large number of pupils and staff from other Christian groups. The Anglican tradition has a firm commitment to ecumenism, and this finds expression at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School through members of other Christian traditions leading worship and bringing to it the richness of their experience.
- We value the religious experiences that students and staff of other faiths bring to our school community. The values and heritage of those faiths are celebrated in our worship at appropriate times.

Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School pledges itself to be a place where students and staff of all races and religions will find safety and respect for themselves, their families and their traditions.

AIMS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To provide Collective Worship of a high quality and to ensure that it has a central place in the life of the school.
- To provide an opportunity for students and adults to praise and reach out to God.
- To enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to respect all individuals as children of God.
- To heighten feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness and mystery.
- To provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- To share the central teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian Church at an appropriate level.
- To explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school community, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace – a community where each individual really does matter.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity to approach God with a variety of forms of prayer; these might include praise, seeking forgiveness and asking on behalf of self and others.
- To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, talents and gifts of the school community, and to foster feelings of belonging through a sharing of experiences.
- To foster respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to environmental issues.

- To provide enjoyable and memorable experiences of worship.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each student.
- To provide students with a strong foundation on which to build a vibrant and lifelong relationship with God.

At Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School, we understand that our students' approach to worship will be at differing levels of commitment.

Our aim is to develop and share the school's Christian ethos, recognising that this should not be taken for granted, but worked at through worship and daily life.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Anglican foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship Policy is firmly based upon the intentions laid down in the Trust Deed.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the Collective Worship on a day to day basis. He/she should also act in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues in terms of providing materials for form prayers/reflections.

The School Chaplain: Our Chaplain, will be responsible for leading Sharing of the Supper on a weekly basis.

The School Improvement Plan [SIP] shall include one or more aims to improve the school's worshipping life and/or community links with Warrington's faith communities.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There is Collective Worship every day in the form of prayer during Form Time

Collective Worship for pupils in Years 7-11 shall be arranged as follows:

Year	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	Spiritual Assembly	Collective Worship	Student performance or Stop, Drop and Read	Quiz	PSHE
8	PSHE	Spiritual Assembly	Collective Worship	Student performance or Stop,	Quiz

				Drop and Read	
9	Quiz	PSHE	Spiritual Assembly	Collective Worship	Student performance or Stop, Drop and Read
10	Student performance or Stop, Drop and Read	Quiz	PSHE	Spiritual Assembly	Collective Worship
11	Collective Worship	Student performance or Stop, Drop and Read	Quiz	PSHE	Spiritual Assembly

- On the days in the week when students do not meet as a school community or in year groups, form prayers and/or a reflection shall take place. Each Year group has a dedicated day on which full Collective Worship takes place. A Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School booklet of suggested prayers shall be given to all form teachers.
- There shall be a weekly theme for Collective Worship which is published at the beginning of the academic year and a reminder shall be included in the weekly Student and Staff Bulletins. It is expected that those leading Collective Worship that week will relate their worship to this theme. However, this pattern is flexible and, on occasions, it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that it is appropriate to respond to school, local or national events; it is important that pupils appreciate that the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.
- The Church's liturgical cycle enables our school community to reflect on and/or celebrate events in the life of Jesus Christ and on the role of the Church in the world. The festivals of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Harvest shall be celebrated either in school or at the various Churches within our community.
- Our new Year 7 students attend an Inauguration Service at St. Elphin's Parish Church in the September they start and they are formally handed over to Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School by their Headteacher. Our Year 11 students attend a Leavers Service at one of our local churches when their academic studies come to an end.
- Visitors representing the worshipping communities of Warrington frequently lead our worship; they add breadth and richness to our understanding of religious commitment and service. Guidelines are given to all those taking acts of worship for the first time at the school [see Appendix 1].

- The school shall provide facilities for Muslim pupils to pray within school at the required time and would respect the needs of other faiths on request. During worship, mention is made of all major world religions and pupils from other faiths are encouraged to lead services.
- The school's Ethos Committee [which includes the Headteacher, Head of Religious Studies, Chaplain, other staff, students and a Governor] shall meet at regular intervals during the year to plan festival celebrations, to evaluate and make plans to improve the school community's experience of Collective Worship, and to monitor the progress of the actions in the School Improvement Plan, where appropriate.
- The Ethos Committee shall be given an annual budget to purchase resources, elements for Eucharists and photocopying.

CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- As mentioned above, there shall be a published weekly theme for Collective Worship. The themes may:
 - a) have a specific Christian base, such as events in the life of Jesus;
 - b) reflect a subject common to all religions, such as creation;
 - c) be on the subject of common values held by people of faith and of no faith, such as honesty and caring.
- All acts of worship shall be planned with consideration for the group of students taking part; attention shall be paid, therefore, to the use of language, concepts and stimuli appropriate to the age and varying abilities of the pupils present.
- Opportunities shall be taken to use resources and activities such as Bible passages, drama, music, poetry, quiet reflection and dance.
- The school's Collective Worship shall provide opportunity for reflection and silence so that students and staff can make the worship their own if they so wish.
- Students are encouraged to be actively involved in the school's Collective Worship, which reflects the involvement many pupils have in the life and witness of their faith community. Their involvement may be at different levels according to the wishes of individuals – for example, reading Bible passages, leading intercessions or drama, being members of the choirs or instrumental groups, taking Holy Communion or a blessing and joining in congregational responses.
- It shall be the aim of those leading Collective Worship in the school that those taking part may have the opportunity to grow in their spirituality and feel reassured that their particular faith stance is respected, whilst allowing the opportunity for challenge.
- Leadership and Governing Body support shall be given to extra-curricula meetings of our religious groups including our Christian Union, Worship Band and the Debating Society.

Appendix 1

GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS LEADING AN ACT OF WORSHIP AT SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School and thank you for accepting our invitation to lead an act of Collective Worship at our school. We hope that you will find the following information helpful as you prepare for your visit.

- Visiting leaders from Warrington's faith communities usually lead acts of worship during assembly or form time 8.45am-9.05am. We will state clearly which act of worship we wish you to lead.
- The majority of our pupils are from Christian families. The recognition of other faiths is an important feature in our worship though, clearly, the main focus of our acts of worship shall be, and are expected to be, Christian.
- Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a special time in the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God in a variety of ways.
- For our acts of Collective Worship there is a weekly theme and you are most welcome to use this theme as the basis for your talk. The Head of Religious Studies, will give you this information when setting a date for your visit.
- We have CD, DVD, data projection and computer laptop technology available; please let us know in advance if you wish to use this equipment.
- Our acts of worship include a prayer and, therefore, we request that you end your talk/presentation with a prayer.
- Please be aware of the ages of your "congregation" when preparing your worship and be sensitive to the wide range of experience, beliefs and opinions that our students hold.

We look forward very much to your visit and the contribution you will make to the worshipping life of our school. We hope that this will be the beginning of a long friendship.