

# Wyvern College



Courage  
Commitment  
Compassion

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Wyvern College strives to provide an excellent and enriching education for boys through our shared Christian values of Courage, Commitment and Compassion.

**March 2017**

## Collective Worship Policy

### Philosophy

Wyvern College is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to give expression to, reaffirm and practise the Christian values of our school community. It is attended by all students; staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Wyvern we recognise that Worship provides important opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

### Aims

Worship at Wyvern should:

- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- explore and engage with Jesus' teaching
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- develop a global understanding to the question "Who is our neighbour?" and promote community cohesion through our worship themes.
- provide the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- provide the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the College, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- be accessible those of all faiths and none.

### Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the College's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the College.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all students in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. At Wyvern College an act of collective worship includes whole school worship, house team worship, key stage worship, year group worship and tutor time reflections. We are also fortunate enough to have St Andrew's and St Mark's churches in close proximity to the school which allows Christian calendar celebration services to take place regularly throughout the year. We aim to play a part in the full, rich and diverse opportunities available from the Cathedral church in the city of Salisbury. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

The responsibility for arranging school worship rests with the Governors who after consultation with the Headteacher will appoint a Worship and SMSC coordinator with the responsibility for Collective Worship and the development of SMSC at Wyvern College.

Acts of Collective Worship take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The College recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Worship.

### Community Cohesion

Through our worship programme we will actively promote Christian values that also promote community cohesion. In response to the question 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan challenging the cultural divides evident in society at that time and promoting community cohesion. We see our neighbours as not only the people nearby locally but also the people nationally and globally. We recognise the College's duty to

promote an understanding of British Values. We champion the values shared by religious traditions that counter extremism and radicalisation.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. The College expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher and Worship Co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The College has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time so is the responsibility of the parent or carer to provide such activities.

### **Planning and Evaluation**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied. Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the year via the worship rota and overviewed in more detail each week.

It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

Collective worship at the College is monitored by a designated foundation governor responsible for monitoring our Christian Foundation.

### **Resources**

The College has a budget to develop resources. These resources are available to all staff and are located in the staff room and in relevant folders on the school network.

### **Chaplaincy**

With the **availability of chaplaincy support from the Bridge project, students have access to one to one support via self and staff referrals.**

The Lay chaplain also has a responsibility to assist with all aspects of worship and will be **monitored** by the Worship co-ordinator.

### **Reviewing**

A formal review of this Policy will be undertaken by the Governors and the Head teacher annually. The Headteacher and designated staff will review the Policy on an informal/operational basis as and when appropriate, i.e. when changes are required to be made as a result of new legislation or improved technology.