



Collective Worship

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Statement of Intent

All students at The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form College are required to take part in collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues. The Ridgeway School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do every day in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in our curriculum for the space it gives to students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express these reflections. All students are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of religious education national curriculum.

Legal Framework

It is a legal requirement that the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all students. The regulations are set out in The Education Act 1944 as amended by The Education Reform Act 1988.

The Act states that collective worship organised by the school is to be “wholly or mainly broadly Christian character”. For those acts that are broadly Christian, the main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief.

The Education Reform Act 1988: Religious Education and Collective Worship (para.34) Policy Aims

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from participating in collective worship.

Aims

Collective workshop at The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for students to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves, as individuals, and of others within the school and wider community.
- Enable students to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Deepen their sense of wonder of the world in which we live
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable reflection
- Encourage social understanding
- Give students the opportunity to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today
- Acknowledge diversity and difference
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.

Practice

At The Ridgeway School and Sixth Form we combine our collective worship with assemblies and mentoring activities, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held weekly for all years 7 – 10 and fortnightly for year 11, 12 and 13. Mentoring activities take place every day in the morning mentoring session that is 30 minutes. This ensure that every child takes an active part in collective worship and the needs of all are met. Delivery of collective worship is also through the PSE, PSHE and RE curriculum.

The school is committed to an active and evolutionary approach to collective worship in the belief that it is a significant element in our attempt to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. In this context, collective worship assumes its rightful importance and reflects the ethos of our school; this being one which is inclusive, caring, and aware of the needs of all.

Leading Collective Worship

Leaders of worship can be students or staff and external visitors, in line with the safeguarding policy and procedure, are welcomed. Leaders from different faith backgrounds help to increase the confidence and self-esteem of students belonging to a faith. It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly or mentoring session to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the assembly theme. However, within the legal framework and theme suggestions, staff conducting collective worship are free to employ whatever format that is seen as appropriate. The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings, hymns, and prayers. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if students are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.