

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Term of policy: Every 2 years

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Date ratified: 20th January 2020

Next Review Date: Spring 2021

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Sources: NGA, The Key

Online location: Google Drive folder: Policies

Consulted with JCC? Yes ☒ No ☐

Introduction

This policy replaces any previous policy and follows the DfE regulations.

In line with the School's Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs policies, we aim to give all students equal opportunities to take part in all aspects of School life, as far as is appropriate, practicable and compatible with giving regard to health and safety and the efficient education of other students.

The policy will follow the five principles of the Children's Plan:

- to support parents and families
- to allow children to reach their full potential
- to enable children to enjoy their childhood whilst preparing for adult life
- to provide services in response to children and family needs
- to use preventative measures to help students avoid the possibility of failure

This policy is based upon the School's commitment to the development and maintenance of good behaviour and a positive and inclusive ethos for all members of the School community.

Foreword

Rooks Heath School is a mixed 11 to 18 multicultural comprehensive in the London Borough of Harrow. This policy is formulated by the Headteacher, in consultation with staff and is monitored by other members of the School's Leadership team. The policy is subject to review by the School's Leadership team and is subject to approval by the governors of the School.

A Summary of the Legal Requirements

Requirement to provide collective worship

... this provision applies to all students who ... are of statutory school age

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, but not maintained special schools, must provide daily collective worship for all registered students.

Timing and Location

- Collective worship may take place at any time during the School day. It may be organised for the whole School as a single act, or for separate age groups or existing School groups.

Application for Determination

- If the Head of the School considers that worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' is inappropriate for the student, the Head can apply, after consulting with the Governors, to the local SACRE for a determination. Rooks Heath follows Harrow's SACRE guidance.

Withdrawal

- Parents may withdraw their child from collective worship. Teachers, too retain the right to withdraw from collective worship. The School aims to provide a form of collective worship that is acceptable to all parents, students and teachers.

The aims of Collective Worship

- To foster a culture of respect amongst both student and staff
- To provide an informed educational experience
- To encourage student participation and opportunity for presentations
- To foster a thought-provoking atmosphere
- To foster a sense of community
- To recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our School and our community
- To encourage recognition, tolerance and respect for the beliefs of others

Structure

Assembly/Collective Worship

- There is one assembly for each Year Group per week; the Head of Year in charge of the Year Group leads the assembly. The Headteacher, Head of Year or other staff may lead assemblies. Personal Tutors are encouraged to arrange for their Tutor groups to present assemblies at least once a year. Outside speakers are often invited in to lead assemblies. The person leading assembly should maintain a balance between the spiritual and moral content and the notices. He or she should also give the students time for silent worship and/or reflection.

Daily Act - Thought for the Day

- The Personal Tutor leads this and there is a structural programme to ensure that all students have the opportunity for silent worship and/or reflection. Form Tutors carry out a formal registration with all students sitting quietly and 'Thought for The Day' follows this. Pastoral and administrative work follows.

Special days and acts of remembrance

- Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship e.g. Christmas, Diwali, Eid, and Remembrance Day. Assemblies should recognise the importance of such events to the school and wider community, encouraging inclusion, cultural diversity and encouraging empathy. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if students are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

Records

- Heads of Year keep a detailed record of the content and focus of each assembly. Wherever possible, assemblies are linked to the PSHE programme.

Prayer Room

- Rooks Heath will make available a room for use for prayer for any group or individual who request this.

Dissemination:

- The policy is shared with staff through the staff handbook. Parents are advised of school policies and have access to said documents via the schools' website. In line with school policy, we endeavour to give all staff and students equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ability, age, or social background.