



# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

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

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

This policy takes account of the Government's aim for children to have the support they need under Every Child Matters:

- to be healthy
- to stay safe
- to enjoy and achieve
- to make a positive contribution
- to achieve economic well-being

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 College's commitment to the development and maintenance of good behaviour and a positive and inclusive ethos for all members of the College community.

## **Foreword**

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

## **A Summary of the Legal Requirements**

### **Requirement to provide collective worship**

*... this provision applies to all pupils 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 pupils.

### **Timing and Location**

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

### **Application for Determination**

- If the Head of the college 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 College aims to provide a form of collective worship that is acceptable to all parents, students and teachers.

### **The aims of Collective Worship**

- To respect both student and staff integrity
- To provide an educational experience
- To encourage student participation
- To foster a thought-provoking atmosphere
- To foster a sense of community
- To recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our college and our community
- To encourage recognition and respect for the beliefs of others

## **Structure**

### **Assembly/Collective Worship**

- There is one assembly for each Year Group per week; the Director of Learning (DoL) in charge of the Year Group leads the assembly. The Head, DoL or other staff may take assemblies. Personal Tutors are encouraged to arrange for their Tutor groups to present assemblies at least once a year. Outside speakers lead assemblies frequently, at the invitation of the College. The person taking 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.

### **Records**

- Directors of Learning keep a detailed record of the content and focus of each assembly. Wherever possible, assemblies are linked to the PSE programme.

### **Prayer Room**

- Rooks Heath provides Prayer rooms for any group or individual who request this.