



# Test Valley School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Rights, Respecting Schools:

**Article 13:** Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law

**Article 14:** Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right.

**Article 30:** Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

## Rationale

The legal requirements set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 are summarised as follows:

- A daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be of a wholly or broadly Christian character i.e. reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominationally biased
- The act of collective worship must be provided for all registered pupils of compulsory school age
- The act of collective worship can take place at any time during the school day and with any grouping of pupils the school chooses to use
- Parents have a right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from collective worship

## Principles

At Test Valley School we understand the term 'collective' to be used in relation to worship as a gathering together of a group or groups of pupils and staff for worship. This does not suggest an act of worship which subscribes to a particular faith, denomination or set of beliefs. Collective worship recognises a diversity of beliefs and points of views. Worship can therefore draw on a variety of forms and provide a focus for thought, inspiration and reflection where those taking part may not share the same religious or cultural backgrounds.

We believe that collective worship supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in our collective worship. This includes how we behave towards, respect and treat one another.



## Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils to:

- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- acknowledge diversity, whether it be religious or not
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- grow in understanding of the feelings and beliefs of other people in every-day situations
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- respond freely to religious and spiritual stimulus
- explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others

## Practice

At Test Valley School we combine our acts of worship with assembly and tutor time, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. We have achieved Level 1 of the Rights Respecting School Award and our themes for each week are linked to the articles of the Children's Charter of Human Rights. These provide an opportunity to consider and reflect upon a particular issue, value or inspirational story the pupils can relate to.

It is not possible to have a daily whole school act of collective worship due to the size of our assembly halls, therefore each pupil attends two assemblies each week. We hold one Key Stage Three (Years 7, 8, and 9) assembly and one Key Stage Four (Years 10 and 11) assembly each week. These are led by a member of the Senior Team. In addition, every pupil attends a year group assembly led by their Year Co-ordinator. In both assemblies pupils are encouraged to participate and lead some assemblies in part or fully in small groups or as tutor groups during the year. In addition, for the remaining three mornings each week, tutors lead their tutor groups on the theme for the week and offer further reflection time.

Staff and pupils leading assemblies are encouraged to use a variety of resources and approaches including:

- film extracts
- PowerPoint presentations
- stories/readings
- dance/drama
- music
- visual aids/artefacts

The PSHE programme meets some of the aims of our collective worship. This is undertaken on dedicated days during the school year, organised by the PSHE Co-ordinator and led in tutor groups by tutors.



## Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the daily act of collective worship in consultation with the Governing Body.

The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for planning the calendar of Themes for the Week and Senior Team assembly rota.

The Year Co-ordinators are responsible for planning the weekly year group assemblies.

All tutors follow the PSHE programme and agreed programme of activities in tutor time.

All teaching staff attend assemblies as tutors. There is, however, a rota in place to enable tutors to undertake the intervention programme with identified pupils each week. Year Co-ordinators oversee this with their tutor teams.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from collective worship and should inform the Headteacher in writing. The school will comply with this request until the parent formally withdraws it.

## Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed by the Senior Team annually to assess its implementation and effectiveness in practice. This will inform the programme planned and its delivery for the following year.

Monitoring will include consideration of:

- the involvement, engagement and responses of pupils (pupil voice activities may be undertaken)
- respect and tolerance evident between pupils and between pupils and staff
- enrichment of pupils' experience and awareness
- feedback from pupils and staff to the assembly programme
- feedback from pupils and staff to the tutor time programme

The Governing Body will formally review the policy every three years.