

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Updated: January 2021

DESIGNATION OF SCHOOLS HAVING A RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

The Red Rose School is a school with a religious character, defined as being a Christian School. [Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (Independent Schools) (England) (No.3) Order 2003, 23rd December 2003.]

Extract fro EQUALITY ACT 2010 - ADVICE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS, SCHOOL STAFF, GOVERNING BODIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Acts of worship

2.13 There is a general exception, which applies to all schools, to the religion or belief provisions which allows all schools to have acts of worship or other forms of collective religious observance. This means the daily act of collective worship, which for maintained schools is mandatory and should be of a broadly Christian nature, is not covered by the religion or belief provisions. The exception means that schools will not be acting unlawfully if they do not provide an equivalent act of worship for other faiths.

2.14 Schools are also free to celebrate religious festivals and could not be claimed to be discriminating against children of other faiths if, for example, they put on a nativity play at Christmas or hold a celebration to mark other religious festivals such as Diwali or Eid.

DFE: General article Updated:29 September 2010

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94. Circular 1/94 has been replaced, so far as it relates to religious education, by guidance published on 29 January 2010. However, the guidance on collective worship contained within Circular 1/94 remains current. The updated non-statutory guidance on RE is available online.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Collective Worship at Red Rose places Jesus and our relationships with Him at the centre of school life. It is a reference point from which all our activities, thoughts, feelings and school ethos are developed.

Collective Worship should be:

- ✓ inclusive and should provide the 'cornerstone' of our pupils social and moral development.
- ✓ educational – providing learning experiences of quality
- ✓ pragmatic - responding to the needs of individual pupils and staff;
- ✓ reflective - on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and pupils own beliefs
- ✓ develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values

- ✓ consider spiritual and moral issues
- ✓ an opportunity for pupils to pray for their families, the school, local community, Government and leaders and Great Britain and the world

IMPLEMENTATION

Daily collective worship will be in assembly held during the school day but generally at the start of the day. The worship will relate directly to the youth culture of the day and a variety of media, performing arts and visiting speakers will be used. A theme will be established for each week. Each Class will be given the opportunity to contribute to an assembly at least once per term.

In addition, collective worship will be used to:

- ✓ Celebrate special occasions together, in particular the major events of the Christian Year.
- ✓ Mark occasions of grief, crisis and joy.