

Collective Worship

This Policy was updated adopted by the full Governing Body on 17 October 2018

Last reviewed: February 2020

This policy is due for review in February 2021

Under present law Religious Education and an act of daily collective worship (of a broadly Christian content) has to be delivered in all schools. As a school we have considered the legal requirements together with the needs of our pupils in formulating this policy.

We have not developed this policy lightly and are convinced that we are delivering the most appropriate Religious Education (Beliefs & Values) and experiences to our pupils following the spirit of the law.

Our pupils have many opportunities to meet and take part in daily broadly religious experiences. Every day during registration times, PSD focused time and at breaktimes each class takes advantage of opportunities to discuss what class members have done, or will be doing, both at school and at home.

This is a time where achievements can be celebrated, people remembered and sadness shared in the most appropriate ways for the individuals and for the group. As both staff and pupils in every Teaching Team form a trust and understanding by working together we believe this is of greater value than a formal act of collective worship. However, classes may choose to also use this time to discuss and prepare for the forthcoming weekly assembly.

We believe that it is important for the larger school community groups to meet together at selected occasions, and our Key Stages meet together in an assembly during the week. Students at our Post-16 provision hold their own assemblies. At assemblies pupils celebrate individual or class achievements and collectively share in the theme for the week, particularly through class lead presentations and celebratory events. The emphasis is on active, enjoyable participation and celebration of achievement and successes. The pupils are encouraged to acknowledge their wider membership of the whole school and all parts of the community we live in.

We believe that our pupils may gain through different religious and belief led experiences but feel that it would be inappropriate for the school to meet in an act of collective daily worship for the following reasons:

- Because many pupils in the school are not working at a level where they can understand abstract concepts, there is a risk of tokenistic delivery of subject matter not pitched at the individual child's needs, something that completely goes against the aims and ethos of the school
- For pupils to assemble, meet and then depart from the school hall requires and considerable amount of time and would significantly reduce other valuable teaching time

The values and aims of Cedars Academy pervade our daily life, through formal teaching and informal social interaction between pupils and staff. All pupils are shown care and respect and are expected and encouraged to show the same to others.

Our Religious Education (Beliefs & Values) curriculum forms part of our Citizenship curriculum pillar, and makes the links between explicit teaching and implicit demonstration of beliefs and values a clear part of teaching across the whole Academy.

For Review: February 2021

UNCRC Reference: Article 2, 14,