



EMMANUEL
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

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Collective Worship Policy



Last review: July 2017
Executive Approval: July 2017
Next review: July 2019

Collective Worship

Collective worship gives students an opportunity to explore the ultimate questions of life. It helps to illuminate the relationship between faith, morality, custom and rite, and examine the truth claims of the Christian faith. The collective act of worship is also a daily opportunity to experience the expression of a faith which is rational, personal and living, and which addresses the eternal human search for fulfilment and security. Over time it presents students with an overview of the whole Bible and demonstrates how the Bible may be applied to everyday living.

In both assemblies and Tutor Reflections five objectives predominate:

1. to afford the opportunity for all to experience, or at least observe, reverence for the person of God
2. to direct thoughts to God's nature, His ways and plans, and to man's place in relationship to him
3. to point to Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient, unique and final Saviour
4. to allow for prayer and/or prayerful reflection
5. to encourage the participation of all as appropriate

The key elements of the act of worship will operate around the reading and explanation of scripture, the application of the passage to students' experience, and a prayer time, spoken or silent. Any announcements or other administrative duties shall be clearly separated from the time for worship.

All schools within the Emmanuel Schools Foundation ("ESF") shall:

- Provide an opportunity for collective worship which is essentially Christian in nature and this will be provided on every day of the academic year with the statutory right of withdrawal for parents who ask in writing. It is hoped that all parents will recognise the Christian ethos of ESF and will wish their children to be included in this important spiritual dimension of ESF life.
- Every Monday begin with an assembly for the whole school staff and student bodies [on each site]. The Assembly will include the presentation of awards, news and announcements as well as a Bible reading and thought for the week.
- Have either one or two additional assemblies during the week, with tutor-based acts of worship [tutor reflections] on other days based around biblical teaching. (Tutor sessions will also address appropriate administrative issues for the day.)
- On occasions have assemblies taken by members of staff or tutor groups. Each school will use assemblies to mark appropriate events and promote British values, for example, at the annual Remembrance day service.
- Have a thought for the day provided when students are away from an ESF school on official visits, tours or other similar activities with staff supervision.
- Make sure any inspection is expected to recognise the emphases outlined in the Annex on Religious Education and Collective Worship as the basis upon which to comment on these aspects of provision. For an *Independent School with a Religious Character Status (Regulations 2003)*, it is expected that the Principal, the Vice Principals the Head of Philosophy, Theology and Ethics (PTE) and teachers of PTE are excluded from the right to opt out of the teaching of PTE and the attendance at or leading of the acts of worship that are consistent with the Foundation's Christian ethos.

Additional matters:

- For assemblies, a schedule of speakers and topics will be distributed at the beginning of each half term.
- Form tutors of students in both the primary and secondary years will be provided with guidance to assist preparations for tutor reflections.
- Opportunities for tutor reflection will be monitored by at least twice a year and feedback will be provided to support the quality of delivery of the reflections.