



Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form Collective Worship Policy

Our School is a caring Christian community. Within this environment we aim to develop individuals of Christian character who can achieve their full potential; can think for themselves; will want to continue learning and will become responsible members of society.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Philosophy

Hutton Grammar School and Sixth Form is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to uncover the immanent Creator God who is in all things, express and celebrate our commonality and encourage students and staff to reflect on how they live their lives. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Hutton Church of England Grammar School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to support our students’ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world wide Church.

Aims

It is our aim at Hutton Church of England Grammar School that worship should:-

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include
 - praise,
 - seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or
 - quiet reflection
 - to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
 - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
 - contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
 - allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- promote community cohesion
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all students in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to deliver high quality acts of Collective Worship to fulfil this requirement.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the Head Teacher have appointed a Worship Team with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of Collective Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that students will have the opportunity to explore:-

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance; the importance of prayer; the central symbols of Christianity; the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship at Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and reflect and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle, the displaying of an image, a moment of silence, etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Hutton Church of England Grammar School and Sixth Form we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher/worship co-ordinator, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship, however, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Acts of Collective Worship for individual year groups are normally led by Key Stage Leader or Worship leads but may also be led by tutors, students and visiting speakers.

On those days when a form group is not in an Act of Collective Worship the form tutor, students within the form group or worship lead will develop /discuss the theme for the week. In order to facilitate and support this all tutor groups are provided with weekly resources, worship and reflection/discussion topics in order to develop and deepen their understanding of the themes.

The school's Chapel, our designated sacred space, is also available for acts of Collective Worship, should individual form tutors wish to use it; in addition the Chapel is visited by all Year 7 groups in order to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of its place within the school.

The school also utilises local churches, at important times within the Christian calendar, as venues for collective worship. These services are led by our School Chaplains.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning; this is carried out, primarily, by the appointed Worship Team however tutors and students are expected to engage and support/develop the themes as appropriate.

Each week there is a theme or question for Collective Worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly notices sheet. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time, supported by the resources prepared for them. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints but also be exposed to a theme/question which is consistently presented.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. When this is the case the school may respond in a number of ways including reflection and discussion within individual forms, a collective act of reflection & remembrance and whole school worship.

Each person leading worship is asked to use the resources created by the Worship Team or plan their own act of worship linked to the theme or question of the week..

Collective Worship is discussed and evaluated termly through the Governing Board Ethos and Wellbeing Committee which, alongside this, also evaluates the school's Christian

Distinctiveness Action Plan. A mirror student Ethos and Wellbeing Group also evaluates and supports the development of Collective Worship and reports to the Governing Board Committee.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept in the '*staff shared resources folder*' and are updated weekly. The school has a budget to develop these resources. Extra Support for Collective Worship is also provided, as requested, from the whole school Worship Team.