



Brentwood School

Collective Worship Policy

Document Owner:	School Chaplain		
Relevant to:	Whole School		
Last reviewed by:	SLT October 2023		
Last approved by and date:	Exec Committee 6th November 2023		
Next review due:	<i>October 2026</i>		
Last updated	October 2023		
Current version published:	14th November 2023		
Circulation:	All Staff	Governors	Website
Related & supporting Policies:	School Values, Aims & Ethos		

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Brentwood School provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for students of all faiths and none. Brentwood School is proud of its Christian Foundation which shapes the modern and inclusive community which exists today. The Christian foundation is evident in many areas of school life but is particularly evident in the presence of a Chapel, a full-time Chaplain and the provision of regular chapel services for all students and staff.

Brentwood School believes that collective worship supports and strengthens our aim to nurture an inclusive community founded upon the Christian tradition. Furthermore, acts of collective worship promote our values of *Virtue*, *Learning* and *Manners* and create a space of welcome and support for students and staff of all faiths and none in a spirit of respect and tolerance. Collective worship also forms an important part of our commitment to developing and nurturing the spiritual wellbeing of all within the community and seeks, through its provision, to model kindness, openness, hospitality and love.

Collective worship at Brentwood School typically involves fortnightly services in Chapel (Senior School pupils) and weekly Chaplain Assemblies (Prep School pupils). In addition, there are a number of occasions when the School gathers for collective worship at key moments within the year, typically Remembrance, Christmas and for our annual Commemoration of Benefactors Service. Details of the extent of our provision can be found in the Curriculum Policy.

Wider collective worship provision for pupils and staff includes the development of a weekly prayer space for our Muslim students and the creation of a Faith Forum as we seek to broaden and improve our existing provision.

Aims

Collective worship at Brentwood School seeks to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils and staff to:

1. Promote and deepen their understanding of the spiritual dimension to life and its importance in nurturing our wellbeing.
2. Provide a safe environment where people of all faiths and none can explore this wider spiritual dimension to life at a personal level in an atmosphere which is both respectful and tolerant.
3. Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and of others within the wider school community and explore how we might foster a mutually supportive community.
4. Explore the school values of Virtue, Learning and Manners and to reflect upon their relevance today.
5. Foster a deeper and respectful understanding of the place of faith in wider society and how this shapes the lives of many people.

6. Acknowledge diversity and difference and to celebrate this within our community and in society as a whole.

Policy statement

1. We expect all pupils to attend School Chapel services and School Assemblies, which are important expressions of the value we place on developing an inclusive community.
2. Pupils and staff are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner in Chapel, assembly and at other religious services that they are asked to attend.
3. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/ren from attending collective worship and Sixth Form pupils may not withdraw themselves. However no pupil or member of staff shall be forced to participate in any act of religious worship that they do not wish to..
4. Pupils and parents may request that their child/ren sit separately in an assembly, chapel or church service to make clear that they are in attendance in the capacity of an observer, rather than as a worshipper. Requests need to be made in writing to the Headmaster in the first instance. Every effort will be made to facilitate this request but it is important to note that the school chapel does not have a clear space which is separate to the main body of the chapel.