

COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP STATEMENT

Last Reviewed/Updated: 15.10.2016

Next Review/Update: 15.10.2017

1. Regent College Collective Worship Statement

Collective Worship at Regent Independent College pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Collective Worship at Regent Independent College is consonant with the philosophy and aims as expressed in the college prospectus.

1.1 Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole college, or groups within the college meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It will allow students to reflect on their own religions and God as well as those of other religions and faith and those with no faith.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

2.1 For the College:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Regent College and it is our aim that this time is when the College community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Explore different faiths and religions
- Explore beliefs of non-faith groups
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop sensitivity, awareness and compassion for people of other cultures
- Develop a community spirit

2.2 For the Students:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Reflect on their own religious beliefs and God
- Worship that which is considered worthy

- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs, including those of non-faith
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human

3. The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Regent Independent College, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of students by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of religious subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with College policy, which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a range of themes and topics from a wide variety of religions, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

4. The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the College hall, or one of the classrooms. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

4.1 Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets, these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Carefully-checked visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time as part of a carefully-coordinated programme which will be drawn up annually to reflect important national and religious events in many faiths. Some events may relate to historical events, such as Remembrance Day, while others reflect religious events from the six major faiths. Events could include: Easter, Good Friday, Lent and Advent, Eid, Yom Kippur and others. Visitors will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Regent College. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the students'



awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the students who belong to these Faiths.

5. The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles, active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources, which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the students.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer and also a reference to the students' own religions and God.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

6. Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Co-Principals.