



Worship Policy

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This policy has been written and implemented in accordance with the School's dedication to its Christian values. These are underpinned in the Stopfordian ethos and the message and example of Jesus Christ.

THE POLICY

The Trust Deed

The relevant section of the Trust Deed of the School states the following, and this forms the basis of our policy:

"2(1) The worship and religious instruction at the School shall be in accordance with the doctrines and practice of the Church of England.

(2) The Bishop for the time being of the Diocese of London shall have the exclusive power of deciding whether the character of the worship and of the religious instruction given in the School is or is not in accordance with the provisions of this Deed."

Background

Bishop Stopford's school is a Church of England Secondary school based in the London Borough of Enfield. The school ethos focuses on achievement within a Christian family. The religious aspect of the school is evident in all aspects of the life of the school. The school is part of the Anglican Communion and the intake reflects backgrounds of the world wide Christian family. The aim of Collective Worship is reflect the diversity within this family while also focussing on the teachings of Jesus' teachings and his commandment of Love.

The School Chaplaincy duties are carried out by the Assistant Head Teacher

Aims of Collective Worship:

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to²:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals;
 - school values;
 - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

Non-Eucharistic worship:

- Morning Worship and Assembly in the School Hall on Monday to Friday for all Year groups
- House Assemblies in the School Hall replace Year groups once every half term
- Sixth Form Worship and Assembly takes place in the School Hall on Monday's at 3.05pm
- Daily Prayer and focus when Assembly and Pause For Thought are not being carried out
- 'Pause for Thought Programme' to support class room based worship in forms
- 'Morning Prayer', Fridays in the school Chapel
- Occasional services: Founders' Day, Speech Day, Carol Service, Gideons Visit etc...

Eucharistic worship

- In October and February each Year group has it's own individual Eucharist to celebrate their achievements
- End of Term EUCHARIST for each HOUSE - with Prefect Admissions linked to the celebration at the end of the academic year.

Comments on the pattern of non-Eucharistic worship

- Assembly has a mix of formality (eg. Formal start and end,) and informality, it is structured with opportunities to acknowledge different festivals and events throughout the school year. This act of worship is hosted by the Lay Chaplin
 - Prayers of intercessions are lead by students,
 - The Prayer for all Stopfordians and lighting of a candle by students
 - The school prayer said out loud as a school community.
 - This act of worship is hosted by the Lay Chaplin and led by a member of the Staff and students.
 - Pupils deliver assembly to their Year groups in rotation during the year.
- The Weekly Worship rota is published at the start of the academic year.
 - This includes a clear theme for each act of Worship linked to the Stopfordian Ethos, Key British Values, the Church lectionary and a suggested prayer for the worship leader to use.
 - The theme is also replicated in the weekly *Pause for Thought* programme; thus ensuring a consistency of approach throughout the school community.
 - At present corporate singing is being introduced to Key Stage 3.
 - Every morning Music students provide atmospheric music for the start and close of this act of worship.
- Pause for Thought.
 - The whole school follows a specially designed series of themes that reflect the life of our community and leads the school through the Liturgical Year.
 - Each week the theme is visited in Assembly and is underpinned by the various activities offered through the programme to be celebrated by Forms in Tutor time.
 - The themes are varied and use scripture, poetry, relevant quotations, newspaper articles, photographs, etc...as well as the opportunity to reflect upon a piece of art or to engage with a simple stilling exercises.

- A presentation is provided as a powerpoint by the Lay Chaplain.
- The chapel is available during break times to staff and students reflection and private prayer.
- Morning Prayer is said from the Book of Common Prayer every Friday morning in the School Chapel. This is lead by the Lay Chaplain and pupils are invited to read the gospel.

Comments on the pattern of Eucharistic worship

- The Eucharist plays an important role in the worshipping life of the School.
- The school welcomes clergy from the local churches into celebrate the sacrament and preach for the services.
- At each celebration, students and staff take a full and active part in the celebration of the Eucharist, either as readers, intercessors, musicians, servers or as Eucharistic Ministers.
- The timings and the structure for these celebrations are reviewed regularly to ensure that worship is both accessible and appropriate.¹

Comments on the Occasional Services

- There is an informal 'Service of Welcome' for the parents and Students of the New Year 7 held early in September
- School Speech Day is celebrated in October with a Guest of Honour as our Speaker.
- A Traditional Lessons & Carol Service is held in December.
- Our Founders' Day Service, is held in late June or early July in the School Hall, and is attended by the students of Year 7, all the staff, as well as governors, parents and special guests.
- An ordained member of the Church of England is invited as 'Guest of Honour' and preaches the sermon.
- The Gideon Society visits the School each year to distribute copies of the New Testament to the students of Year 7.

All occasional services are reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and the Lay Chaplain as they arise throughout the course of the year.

The Future:

- To continue work with the Music department in providing a whole school programme of religious music for Worship and other school occasions
- Encourage the role of local Parochial clergy as partners in the mission and witness of the school community
- Develop the more Pupils and Teaching Staff as providers of Collective Worship through Inset training
- To develop a Christian Union as part of the extra curricular provision
- Encourage participation in an Episcopal Area pilgrimage to Taize in France
- To develop the opportunities for Islamic pupils to meet for Friday prayers and pupils of other faiths to have prayer/worship times.

A legal note¹⁴

¹ Respond and take into account the recent National Reports: *Making Sense of Generation Y*, *Mission Shaped Children*, *Faithful Cities* all published in 2006

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.