



**SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL**

# A Policy for Collective Worship

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Governing Body</b>
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>December 2024</b>
<b>Next Review:</b>	<b>December 2025</b>

## **Introduction**

This document explains the policy for collective worship at this school and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

## **The Legal Requirements for Collective Worship**

- The 1988 Education Act stated that:
- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
- The act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings. It may happen at any time of the school day.
- The act of worship has to take place on school premises. (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises).
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In an aided or voluntary controlled school the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher. The character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds.)
- All staff, including the Headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship. (The right to withdrawal does not extend to staff in Aided schools.)
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective worship. At Smithdon High School we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. However, we provide daily acts of Collective Worship, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- Praise
- Reflection
- Sharing
- Thanks
- Celebration

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time provides a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

## **The Organisation of Collective Worship at Smithdon High School**

There is an act of Collective Worship during whole school assembly each Monday, led by a member of the SLT. There is an additional act of Collective Worship during year group assemblies held on other days during the week led by the Assistant Head teacher for that year group.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. Please contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. Staff also have the right to withdraw.