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to live in love;
to grow together.



“Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is Jesus Christ”

Ephesians 4

BISHOP WORDSWORTH’S SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

A Statutory Policy

Definitions:

1. ‘Parent(s)’ includes guardian(s) or any person who has parental responsibility for the student or who has care of the student.
2. ‘Is to’, ‘are to’ and ‘must’ are obligatory. ‘Should’ is not obligatory but is good practice and is to be adhered to unless non-compliance can be justified.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

1. The 1988 Education Reform Act and DfES Circular 3/89, ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’, require schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for every student (unless that student is withdrawn by her/his parents under the provision of the Act). This worship is to be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.
2. Bishop Wordsworth’s School (the School) was founded by Bishop John Wordsworth in 1890 for the ‘purposes of education in connection with the Church of England’ and is a Church of England Academy. The ethos statement at Annex A makes this explicit.

AIMS

3. Collective Worship in the School aims to model the Christian understanding that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and is to be valued and respected. It aims to provide all those taking part, both students and staff with a sense of being united in a common and authentic search for truth and justice within the presence of God.
4. Collective worship in school recognises the richness of other faiths and seeks to model a way of learning from and living with those of different beliefs, discovering what is held in common and seeking ways to work together.
5. While worship is to be of a broadly Christian and Anglican character, it is to be inclusive, designed and led in such a way that people of all religious faiths or none will feel that they and their beliefs are respected.
6. Collective Worship is to aim to provide as high a quality of experience as possible. The diversity of experience, venues and participants in Collective Worship at the School should be viewed holistically, but within this overall picture there should be opportunities for:

- a. Students to participate (including leading aspects of or whole assemblies).
- b. Hearing/seeing things that transcend everyday life.
- c. Making connections with cultures and events beyond the School.
- d. A level of challenge – to cultural norms, received wisdom or values, stereotypical views.
- e. The development or growth of a spiritual dimension to life.

ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES

7. Collective Worship should be led by the Head, Chaplain, Deputy Heads, Heads of School and other members of staff and students who are willing to do so under the terms of the legislation governing Church schools. The table in Annex B outlines the weekly pattern.

8. Services for the whole school are held in the Cathedral at the beginning of the school day, these take place on a half termly basis during the year, they include an annual School Eucharist and contribute an important formational element to Bishop's identity as a Church School. Reflections, services for Y11, 12 & 13, are held in the Cathedral during the school's tutorial time in the morning. The Founder's Day Service and the Carol Service are also held in the Cathedral. Students, staff, governors, parents, Old Wordsworthians and invited guests take part in these services. (Services for Y10 are held on a fortnightly basis in St Osmunds Church on Exeter Street)

9. The School Chapel is be used for Collective Worship in the mornings for Year 7 & 8 on a weekly basis. Student organists and Sarum prefects support the worship. Opportunities to explore faith at a more individual level, including preparation for Confirmation, Christian Union, 6th Form Holy Communion and discussion groups take place in the School Chapel. There is also opportunity for quiet reflection at other times in the Chapel.

10. The Sports Hall should be used weekly for Collective Worship for Y7-11, twice termly for house assemblies and, in conjunction with other venues from time to time, is used for assemblies by the Lower School, Middle School or Sixth Form. Students are to be actively encouraged to participate in and contribute to Cathedral Services and Chapel Services (and in other areas too), with a view to encouraging a sense of community and ownership.

11. Themes for Worship and the daily 'breathing space' slides used for daily reflection in line with legislation and SIAMS expectations are to be chosen to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and to meet the following criteria:

- a. To make people conscious of the presence of God.
- b. To provide an interesting and varied programme of Collective Worship.
- c. To assist students to see the relevance of faith and worship in the whole of life by the following:
 - (1) Acquainting them with key passages from the Bible, from works of Christian writers and those of other faiths.

- (2) Encouraging them to reflect upon spiritual and moral values by presenting issues which relate to their development.
- (3) Fostering a sense of belonging to the School as a community.
- (4) Promoting an awareness of causes and social concerns in the contemporary world for which the School might, where practicable, provide some active support.
- (5) Promoting an ethos which values imagination, inspiration, contemplation and a clear understanding of right and wrong.

12. Opportunity for reflection is offered throughout the school and on the electronic boards.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND COMPLAINTS

13. It is hoped that all students are able to join in acts of Collective Worship, and all members of the school community are also strongly encouraged to join as this contributes greatly to the ethos and corporate spirit of the School. However, those parents who wish to withdraw their children from these activities are entitled to do so and are required to advise the Head by letter.

14. Arrangements have been made with the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education for the hearing of complaints about the provision of Collective Worship. Further details may be obtained from the School Office.

BUDGET

15. There is an annual budgetary allocation to support Collective Worship in the School. In addition, applications are made to various grant-making trusts including the Bishop Wordsworth Educational Trust and the Sarum St Michael Charity.

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

16. If, during the currency of this Policy, any statute or statutory instrument is enacted that adds to, modifies or is in conflict with any provisions of the Policy, then the Policy will be deemed to include any such statutory provision to the extent necessary to make the Policy compliant with that provision.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

17. The Deputy Head (Academic) and Link Governor are responsible for the evaluation of Collective Worship. The Policy is to be reviewed annually and agreed by Governors. The most recent 5 years' review history is below:

7 th June 2022	Moderate updates
6 th June 2023	Minor updates
6 th June 2024	Minor updates
17 th June 2025	Minor updates

Annex:

- A. Ethos Statement.
- B. Bishop Wordsworth's Collective worship overview.

ANNEX A TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

ETHOS STATEMENT

Recognising its historic foundation, the School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish, cathedral, and diocesan level.

The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to its students.

ANNEX B TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Bishop Wordsworth’s Collective worship overview 2025-2026					
Year Group	Venue	Day of Week	Form of Worship	Leaders	Frequency
Years 7 – 13	Cathedral	Varies from Tuesday to Thursday, even out impact on academic lessons	A 40-minute Choral Service of the Word	Chaplain/ Link Governor	Half-termly
	Classroom		Eucharist: February Student designed and led: March Breathing Space slides to enable a moment of reflection and worship		Daily
Years 7 – 11	Sports Hall	Wednesday	Hymn, address, prayers	Head Master and SLT	Weekly (when Sports Hall available) Approx 55% of year
Years 7 & 8	School Chapel	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday + overflow in lesson time (Tutorials)	Hymn, address, prayers	Chaplain, prefects, members of teaching staff. Year 7 & 8 form groups design and lead in Spring term.	Weekly throughout the year
Years 9 - 10	St Osmund’s	Friday	Hymn, address, prayers	Chaplain & Head Master	Fortnightly throughout year
Year 11	Cathedral	Wednesday	Hymn, address, prayers	Chaplain	Once half term. Limited by Cathedral availability
Year 12 - 13	Cathedral	Wednesday	Hymn, address, prayers	Chaplain	Once half term. Limited by Cathedral availability