

For this we stand:
to search for truth;
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Worship', require schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for every student (unless that student is withdrawn by her/his parents under the provision of the Act).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 foundation 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 at the School is distinctively Christian, in line with the foundation of the school and its status as a Church of England school. The Lord's Prayer is said within each act of worship and, when worship is in the Chapel, we begin with the ethos statement based on Ephesians 4: "We search for truth, live in love and grow together".
5. Collective worship also recognises the richness of other faiths and seeks to model a way of living alongside those of different beliefs or none. It should celebrate what is held in common and seek ways to understand each other and work together.
6. Collective worship is to be designed and led in such a way that people of all religious faiths or none will feel that they and their beliefs are respected.

7. Collective Worship is to be carefully planned and led to produce acts of worship that are meaningful and respectful. 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. An encounter with God through prayer, awe and wonder.
- b. Students to participate (including leading aspects of or whole assemblies).
- 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

8. Collective Worship should be led by the Head, Chaplain, Deputy or Assistant Heads, Heads of School and other members of staff and students who are willing to do so. The table in Annex B outlines the fortnightly pattern for formal collective worship for Years 7-11 in the School Chapel and St. Osmund's Church on Exeter Street.

9. 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 fostering a sense of community and ownership.

10. Six services for the whole school are held in the Cathedral during the year between 9am and 10am. They include an annual School Eucharist and contribute an important formational element to Bishop's identity as a Church School. Reflections, services for Years 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.

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

12. The Sports Hall is to be used on a weekly rota for Collective Worship for Y7-13, 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.

13. The requirement for daily collective worship is met through the 'breathing space' slides provided by the Chaplain and distributed to all staff. These should be displayed in tutor groups, accompanied by a time of silence, discussion or prayer, depending on how the Form Tutor feels comfortable to lead them. The 'breathing space', echoing the school's understanding of spirituality as 'breathing life in all its fullness', is also displayed digitally around the school.

14. Themes for Worship and the daily 'breathing space' slides used for daily reflection are to be chosen to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and to meet the following criteria:

- a. To enable a sense 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 students with key passages from the Bible, from works of Christian writers and, where appropriate, those of other faiths.
 - (2) Promoting a Christian ethos which values inspiration, imagination contemplation and a clear understanding of right and wrong.
 - (3) Fostering a sense of belonging to the School as a community.
 - (4) Encouraging students to reflect upon spiritual and moral values through engagement with events in the world.
 - (5) Promoting an awareness of causes and social concerns in the contemporary world for which the School might, where practicable, provide some active support.

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

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND COMPLAINTS

16. 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.

17. 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

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

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

19. 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

20. The Deputy Headmaster, Chaplain 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
24 th June 2026	Significant Updates

Annex:

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

ANNEX A TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

FOUNDATION 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 the Christian faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to its students.

ANNEX B TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

For this we stand:
to search for truth;
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 Wordsworths Collective Worship & Assembly Overview 2026-2027

Slot	Lower School	Middle School	Sixth Form
Mon A	Y7 Chapel (J, M), Tutor (O, P, W) Y8 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy	Middle School Assembly (Y9-11)	Tutor Time (Breathing Space)
Tues A	Y7 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy Y7 Y8 Chapel (J, M), Tutor (O, P, W)	Y9, 10, 11 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy	Sixth Form Assembly (Y12-13)
Wed A	School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors.	School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors.	School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors. Y12 & Y13 out on a cycle for Cathedral Reflections
Thurs A	Y7 & Y8 Tutor Time (PHSRCE)	Y9 Chapel (J, M) Tutor Time (O, P W) Y10 & 11 Tutor Time (PHSRCE)	Tutor Time (PHSRCE)
Fri A	Lower School Assembly (Y7-8)	Y9 Tutor Time (PHSRCE) Y10 Tutor Time Y11 St Osmund's	Tutor Time
Mon B	Y7 Chapel (O, P, W) Tutor (J, M) Y8 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy	Middle School Assembly (Y9-11)	Tutor Time, (Breathing Space)

Tues B	Y8 Chapel (O, P, W) Tutor Time (J, M) Y7 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy	Y9, 10, 11 Breathing Space, Guided Reading/Oracy	Sixth Form assembly (Y12-13)
Wed B	All Years School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors.	School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors.	School Assembly (2-year groups out on a rota) Tutor time for those not in assembly – theme of assembly delivered by tutors. Y12 & Y13 out on a cycle for Cathedral Reflections
Thurs B	Y7 & Y8 Tutor Time (PHSRCE)	Y9 Chapel (O, P, W) Tutor Time (J,M) Y10 & Y11 Tutor Time (PHSRCE)	Tutor Time (PHSRCE)
Fri B	Lower School Assembly (Y7-8)	Y9 Tutor Time (PHSRCE) Y10 St Osmund's Y11 Tutor Time	Tutor time