



NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER



Collective Worship Policy

April 2023

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/reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Principles

New College Leicester believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of college life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our Values (4 Rs), Reflection for the week, Thought for the Day and our assemblies. We value these times in the college day for the space they give young people to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered college age students take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the students".

Families who send their young people to this college are in the main Christian. In addition, there are many young people who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our young people to worship/reflect, we have to consider the backgrounds that our young people come from and it is therefore not the practice of this college to preach to or convert any young person. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for young people to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the college and wider community
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings and beliefs
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole college
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Practice

At New College Leicester we combine our acts of worship/reflection with assembly, helping to ensure that worship/reflection takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one assembly each week for every student in the college. In addition, form tutors lead tutor groups through the Reflection for the Week and Thought for the Day during tutor time.

Heads of Year, Form Tutors, Senior Staff or visitors lead the Year Group assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both the planning and the leadership of assemblies throughout the college year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at Student Parliament meetings and students are invited to submit ideas and get other young people involved.

The college year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the college calendar. Staff leading worship/reflection can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up.

Additional Guidance on Planning and Conducting Assemblies

At New College Leicester we believe that collective worship makes a vital contribution to the development of students in the following areas:

1. Assemblies contribute to the **moral** development of students by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
 - hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness and right are exemplified;
 - learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.
2. Assemblies contribute to the **social** development of students by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - gather with others for a common purpose;
 - share times of joy and sadness with others;
 - celebrate each other's success
 - learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting;
 - increase self-confidence in public speaking/dramatic or musical performance.
3. Assemblies contribute to the **cultural** development of students by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - hear and respond to music from a range of times, places and cultures;
 - reflect upon ideas concerning the concept of beauty;
 - appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the college community and beyond.
4. Assemblies contribute to the **intellectual** development of students by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - learn and engage with their minds;
 - have ideas concerning values confirmed or challenged;
 - reflect on the importance of learning in the context of our college community;
 - consider the power of words.

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Students' contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

All assemblies must be based around the theme for the week stated on the Pastoral Curriculum overview.

Song/Music

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the college community. Music from a variety of cultures and religions is used on occasions. Music should be selected carefully to match the assembly theme.

Reflection

The use of reflection is encouraged within both assembly and tutor time. Reflection is a good way of enabling young people to focus their thoughts.

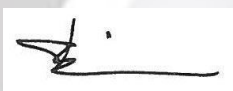

It is not always necessary to have a period of guided reflection and the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some students to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Principal is responsible (under the College Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The Assistant Principal (Pastoral) with the Head of Health and Wellbeing are responsible for planning the calendar of assembly themes and “Reflection for the Week” and “Thought for the Day” on a yearly basis. This is discussed by the Heads of Year which also provides an opportunity for them to give feedback to Year Teams about assemblies.
- All Form Tutors follow the PSHEE programme in tutor time and plan and deliver PSHE sessions 3 times a week.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they are undertaking focussed sessions with a tutee or they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Principal.
- Parents/carers of a student have a right to withdraw their young people from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excluded from attending collective worship at the college, the college must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head of Year.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in Post 16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship.
- The Assistant Principal (Pastoral) is responsible for ensuring that parents/carers are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the newsletter and website.
- The Heads of Year ensure that the content of the assemblies delivered by visitors is appropriate to the age of the students.

Dissemination

This policy is shared with all staff through the staff handbook. Parents/carers are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the newsletter and website.

Author:	Mrs J Brown – Principal			
Review Date:	April 2025			
Signed:		Chair of Governors: Sue Billington	Date:	04.05.23
Signed:		Principal: Jane Brown	Date:	04.05.23