

BROCKINGTON COLLEGE



Collective Worship/ Spiritual Reflection POLICY

Brockington College (A Church of England Academy) has at its heart a distinctive Christian Ethos. Based on our Christian foundation and Values we seek to promote a culture of developing every person and therefore every school policy from this perspective, with a commitment of learning and maturing in the context of communal and individual development. We lay particular stress on the Christian values of perseverance, learning, wisdom, justice, koinonia, forgiveness and compassion for individuals and the school community.

Brockington College Policy on Collective Worship/Spiritual Reflection

Ethos and Aims

- Brockington College is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Academy. Collective Worship/Spiritual Reflection (as it has been recently named) is, therefore, an important part of each school day as it gives us the opportunity to create an oasis where children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere, and where all present are given an opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as “quality” time and represents something special or separate from “ordinary” school. It gives pupils the opportunity to experience traditions and practices at the heart of Christianity and act as a basis for later understanding.
- The school’s Vision statement, Motto and Aims reflect the Christian Ethos of the school as a whole. In particular, it envelops the following aims:
 - to nurture those of the Christian faith, to support those of other faiths and to enable those of no faith to explore their spirituality.
 - to promote respect and sensitivity for the lifestyles and beliefs of all.
 - to develop positive, responsible attitudes towards family life, the college, the community and society based in Christian values.
 - to encourage cooperation and appreciation of others.
- We recognise that Spiritual Reflection is an important opportunity for our students’ SMSC development.
- Any visitors in school are very welcome to join us.

Legal status of Collective Worship¹

- The Education Reform Act 1998 states that responsibility for Acts of Collective Worship rests with “the governing body after consultation with the Head teacher” (s6:3b). At Brockington College, therefore, arrangements for Collective Worship are made after consultation with the governing body and the Head teacher.
- It also states that Collective Worship should be a part of a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of pupils and society.
- There are three basic requirements for Collective Worship:
 1. *All pupils should take part...*
 2. *each school day...*
 3. *in an act of Collective Worship.*Thus, structures are in place to enable every pupil to attend a daily act of Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship at Brockington College is in accordance with:
 - a) the Trust Deed of the school.
 - b) the legal framework for Collective Worship and subsequent advice documents.
 - c) the legal requirement in Anglican schools for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take part in the church.
- Advice from the DfE (DfE 1/94) has been read and discussed, its advice forming the basis of policy.
- Advice for Spiritual and Moral Development (SCAA 1995) has been read and discussed, its advice forming the basis for policy.
- Advice from the Leicestershire Diocesan Board of Education has been read and discussed, its advice forming the basis for policy.

General Aims of Spiritual Reflection

At Brockington College, we aim to hold acts of Spiritual Reflection which:

- fulfil the legal requirements as set out above (e.g. Christian in character).
- support the School Aims and Values as appropriate.
- contribute to the pupils SMSC development (in adherence to the school’s SMSC policy).

¹ The legal framework for Collective Worship can be found in the Education Act 1996 Part V, Chapter III, Sections 385-388.

The legal reference as regards to school worship in Voluntary schools is found in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Part II, Chapter VI, Section 70 and Schedule 20 of the same act.

Where a Voluntary school has religious character, as defined by the Designation of Schools having a Religious Character (England) Order 1999, then the programme of worship in that school must reflect the school’s religious character. For Anglican schools, therefore, it should reflect the Anglican tradition of school worship.

- support ECM and Equal Opportunities aims by allowing every child to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience.
- provide an enjoyable, engaging, valuable, relevant and worthwhile learning experience.
- give the opportunity for pupils to reflect on their own experiences, explore profound questions and enable them to respond in an appropriate manner as individuals.
- are flexible enough to relate to the needs of all pupils and staff.

Guiding Principles

Spiritual Reflection should be:

A. Inclusive

- * pupil centred, related to pupils' experience and be relevant to areas of pupil concern.
- * acknowledging the diversity of each pupil's lifestyle and beliefs, whether they are religious or not; All pupils should feel that their personal integrity is respected.
- * involving pupils as active participants.
- * shaped to the needs of Brockington as an individual school.
- * fostering a sense of community, or shared value, identity, perception, outlook and purpose.
- * in a safe and secure environment. On occasions where worship takes place in the local church, a risk assessment is always carried out. Special arrangements are in place to facilitate transport of pupils unable to make the journey on foot.

B. Educational

- * providing a learning experience, both for those participating in it and those watching it. This experience should be one of quality related to the pupils' own experience.
- * linking in to all other curriculum areas, especially complimenting the work done in RS, providing insight into the nature and practice of worship.
- * providing opportunities to reflect on the educational purpose of the school and to celebrate success in a wide range of achievements.
- * taking care never to be manipulative, coercive or discourage questioning.

C. Spiritual

- * providing a breathing space away from normal school activity, where a time to be still and reflect can be created in an atmosphere of peace and calm.
- * creating an atmosphere, before the Act of Worship begins, by ensuring that pupils enter the Hall in an appropriate manner conducive to the creation of such an atmosphere.
- * providing opportunities for individual responses by pupils, sometimes facilitated by meaningful silences.
- * reflecting on the Anglican tradition of the school.

D. Focused

- * producing a clear, easily understood and positive spiritual message, which may be moral or social.
- * related to a theme, which has sufficient depth to be developed throughout the week.
- * encouraging active involvement, not passive inaction.
- * creating an atmosphere which lends itself to reflecting on key values and beliefs.

E. Flexible

They should offer opportunities to:

- * celebrate together times of success or happiness and empathise in times of sadness.
- * meditate together, encourage reflection or experience being silent and still.
- * help to build a community and foster corporate identity, whilst affirming the individual.
- * enhance spiritual growth, explore Christian beliefs and experiences and consider the realm of the transcendent.
- * share common values.
- * contribute to personal development.
- * consider that while we wish to create a better future, we are rooted in the past.

General Pattern for Daily Acts of Collective Worship

Daily Acts of Collective Worship take place in the Main Hall, or in individual Tutor rooms, from 8.45-9.05am. The school worships in church at Harvest Festival (Year 7 only) and Christmas (all years) and Easter (all years).

Persons designated to lead Collective Worship

Monday/ Wednesday

Visiting Clergy, Lay Preachers, Reality

Tuesday/ Thursday/ Friday

Heads of Year, SLT, ESLT, Head of House, Staff, Form Groups or other suitable Visitors invited in.

Visitors

- An external coordinator compiles a rota of regular visiting speakers, some Ministers, others Lay Preachers. These include representatives from the Anglican Church and other Protestant denominations. We aim to have a good cross section of younger and older visitors, male and female, and a wide variety of approaches.
- Annual Forums are held to which all regular visitors are invited, to discuss Collective Worship.
- Other visitors include representatives from charities and fund raising organisations.
- Any visitor taking an act of Spiritual Reflection is given a set of guidelines.

Support for Acts of Spiritual Reflection

- The Worship Coordinator chooses Themes, Word and Value for each week (based on staff, governor, clergy and pupil suggestions), which provide coherence to the programme of worship. These are circulated to all staff and regular visitors who lead or support worship.
- Themes, Word and Value of the Week are provided for all Form Tutors to facilitate Tutor Group Worship.
- Written guidelines are given to all staff concerning Tutor-led Spiritual Reflection and there is training annually.
- Materials and resources are available for ideas for content of any Acts of Collective Worship.
- Written guidelines are given to Visiting Speakers prior to their first visit.
- Student activities and additional resources are available for Tutors on Moodle, to use in form time, to aid delivery.
- Spiritual Reflection booklets are provided annually to all pupils.

Attendance at Spiritual Reflection

- At Brockington College, we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the rights of parents to withdraw their children from Spiritual Reflection. Therefore, all pupils attend the Act of Spiritual Reflection except those whose parents have used their right to seek withdrawal for their child.
- The college expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.
- All staff are welcomed at Spiritual Reflection.
- All Tutors are expected to be present at Spiritual Reflection with their Tutor Groups.

Creation of a suitable atmosphere

- When Spiritual Reflection takes form of an assembly in the hall, pupils are encouraged to enter the Main Hall in a quiet, respectful manner, conducive to creating an atmosphere of worship and reflection.
- Where staff are unable to attend Spiritual Reflection in the Hall, they should accompany their Tutor Group down into the Hall to ensure that their pupils enter in an appropriate manner and should be mentoring a member of their Tutor Group.
- Disciplinary action or reading of notices should be done outside Spiritual Reflection and should not interfere with the spiritual atmosphere engendered. Notices should be given out prior to the start of worship, and not after, to allow the pupils to leave the Hall contemplating the message from the Act of Worship.

Themes for Spiritual Reflection

- There is a clearly defined Theme, Word and Value for each week, which everyone is encouraged to use as a basis, developing the Theme, Word and Value as they see it, according to policy guidelines within the Christian tradition of the school. We have had phrases, sayings, etc. rather than single words for the Themes since 1991, and we still firmly believe that this is a very successful way of ensuring continuity, whilst offering freedom of diversification. It results in an excellent variety of Spiritual Reflection within the week, as pupils have the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. It is also flexible enough to allow worship leaders to respond to national or local events as appropriate.
- Some Themes are chosen with reference to the calendar, Bible, some are appropriate to lend themselves to Spiritual Reflection centred on equal opportunities of race and gender, racial issues, environmental issues, festivals and celebrations, so that the rich culture of our multi-cultural society is incorporated.
- The Themes for each term are displayed on notice boards in Tutor rooms, Moodle, the Values Tree and staff Calendars.
- Copies of the Themes for the term are sent to visiting clergy. They are encouraged to lead their Acts of Worship based on the Theme, Word and Value of the week.
- All Themes are such that they can easily lead to an Act of Worship, which is wholly Christian.
- Form Tutors are offered suggested materials for their Tutor-led Spiritual Reflection, related to the week's Theme, Word and Value.
- The person appointed by the Governors and Head teacher as Collective Worship Coordinator has responsibility for the development of Themes, Word and Value and Acts of Worship within the school.

- Pupils have ownership of the Themes, as opportunities are available for them to contribute their suggestions and/ or relevant artwork.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and Evaluation is ongoing throughout the year:
 - A record is kept of Spiritual Reflection, which is reviewed regularly. This includes copies of visitor, leadership and form time Spiritual Reflection (e.g. PowerPoints, scripts, etc).
 - Clergy and lay persons taking Spiritual Reflection as an assembly are in the process of observing each other annually with pupils and staff.
 - Individual Spiritual Reflection within Tutor Groups is observed at least once a year by the Head of Year or Collective Worship Coordinator.
 - Staff questionnaires and pupil surveys take place each term.
 - Informal meetings/ discussions with interested parties are ongoing on a weekly basis.
 - All findings contribute towards future planning, development and SIP.
- Monitoring and Evaluation is done by the Collective Worship Coordinator, as well as the Principal and other concerned parties (Line Manager, Foundation Governors, etc.). This includes ascertaining the views of pupils, staff and parents, both formally and informally. The Link Governor for RS is also linked to Spiritual Reflection and reports back to Governors when relevant. (*See Governor Links sheet*)

Conclusion

Well planned Spiritual Reflection can provide a unique curriculum to SMSC development of pupils at Brockington College, and become a valid and progressive educational experience rather than a necessary chore. We regard it as an opportunity to be grasped, rather than a problem to be solved.