



GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

| Issue No | Author/ Owner | Date Written | Approved by Governors on | Comments |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1 | KJM | | 16 July 2008 | |
| 2 | JB | November 2014 | 11 March 2015 | |

The Aims of the School with regard to Collective Worship and Related Activities

Backwell School offers each student the opportunity to explore and develop their personal identity in an environment that promotes shared social and moral values to everyone equally regardless of gender, sexuality race, religion, culture or physical or mental ability. The social and moral values of the school, which forms part of our society at large, are founded on mutual understanding, tolerance and respect.

The school recognises our students' developing maturity of judgement during their school career. It encourages students' development of self worth and particularly recognises that they have guided self-determination in the development of their values and beliefs. However, the school will not allow extremist views or intolerant comments or attitudes to be disseminated or go unchallenged.

The governors recognise the role of the family and the community outside the school environment in the development of the students' beliefs and values.

Collective Worship activities at the school are designed to cohesively and pro-actively support this school ethos. They are part of an integrated values curriculum which also occurs across the subject range, including in particular Philosophy and Religion.

Arrangements for Collective Worship

Within the constraints of the school building accommodation student assemblies take place as follows:

Weekly assemblies for all Year groups led by the Headteacher, or a Deputy or Assistant Headteacher, or on occasion by other staff, students or visiting representatives or agencies.

Weekly assemblies for House or Year group or sections thereof led by the appropriate Head of Pastoral Unit, a tutor, students or by visiting representatives or agencies.

These assemblies enable each student to meet with the Headteacher and pastoral Head of Unit on a weekly basis. They engender a community spirit. They promote and offer to students the opportunity to consider deep issues that affect us individually, local, nationally or globally, and to develop strong ethical, moral and socially cohesive values. The subject content and the themes of the assemblies are monitored by the School leadership Team to ensure that they meet the objectives described in the Preamble.

On days when they do not have assembly there is the opportunity for tutors and their tutor groups to reflect on the religious, cultural, social and moral issues. This enables greater student participation at individual or group level. Students' own personal religious beliefs may form part of that contribution.

Legislative requirements

The requirements for collective worship are specified in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA) and the supporting Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and collective Worship". This document can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf

This policy will be reviewed in September 2018.