



THE FULHAM BOYS SCHOOL

Policy Title	RE and Collective Worship Policy
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Revisions Table

Version	Date	Description of Change
Summer 2020	Spring 2020	The following items were amended: 3.2.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.4, 6.4

The master copy of this document can be found on the FBS Google Drive, under the "Policies" folder. This is one of a number of policies that are reviewed by the Governing Body, the full list can be found on the FBS Google Drive in the Policies Folder. Minor revisions that just adjust factual items (eg contact details / names) can be made by the author without formal review, and must be recorded in the Revisions table above. Revisions table front sheet was added to all policies during policy review of Summer 2018.



THE FULHAM BOYS SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Policy will be interpreted in line with the Christian values and ethos of the school and must be read consistently with all other material policies of the School. For the purposes of all School policies please refer to the definitions guide (not all defined terms will be material to all policies or the procedures authorised by the governing body under it).

- 1.1 The Fulham Boys School is a Christian school which also welcomes students of other faiths and none. The Headmaster, working with the governing body and others, will draw on the teachings of the Christian faith to create a shared vision of a Christian education.
- 1.2 The Religious Education (RE) curriculum will be exciting and stimulating. Along with Christianity, students will learn about the other major world religions.
- 1.3 An act of collective worship will take place every day at The Fulham Boys School. As the school is built upon Christian principles and values we expect all boys to attend and show respect, whatever their family religious background.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Fulham Boys School is required to:
 - 2.1.1 Make provision for the teaching of Religious Education and for a daily act of Collective Worship, including post-16 students.
 - 2.1.2 Arrange for all students to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship of a Christian character (although some may reflect rather than participate)
 - 2.1.3 Recognise that parents will have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship (however, prior to their children joining Fulham Boys School, we will clearly explain to all prospective parents our expectation that all students play a full part in, and benefit from, activities offered including acts of worship)
 - 2.1.4 Recognise that teachers have the right to not teach Religious Education or take part in Collective Worship

The above

- 2.1.5 Ensure that it is the Headmaster's responsibility to put the above provisions into effect

3. BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 Christian values and beliefs will underpin the ethos of Fulham Boys School. Central to this vision is the belief:

3.1.1 In a God who created the world and sustains it by his power

3.1.2 In a God who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3.16)

3.1.3 That we are to love this God with all our hearts, souls, mind and strength and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12.30, 31)

3.1.4 That we are to treat others the way we would like them to treat us (Matthew 7.12)

3.2 From these beliefs The Fulham Boys School will uphold the following principles:

3.2.1 Christian values, including community, loving truth, serving others, compassion, hard work and thankfulness.

3.2.2 Everyone, whether student or staff member, is created in the image of God and therefore of unique value and meaning;

3.2.3 The development of character – the spiritual and moral aspect of the person – is every bit as important as the development of mind and the gaining of qualifications

3.2.4 Human beings hold the earth in trust and must exploit the opportunities presented by science and technology with due regard for the natural world.

3.2.5 Personally and corporately, the school will encourage creativity, sustainability, respect for the natural world and an understanding of our responsibilities as world citizens

3.2.6 Develop in all individuals a respect for themselves and for others and a love, or at least a respect, for God

3.2.7 Realise the potential of each individual and equip them for life

3.2.8 Encourage care for others before ourselves and the stewardship of the world

3.2.9 Be a safe place in which mistakes can be made, learned from and forgiven

3.2.10 Broaden students' horizons; to offer opportunities for enrichment and enjoyment

3.2.11 To be an institution which is a force for good in the community

3.3 The values and principles set out above will be embedded in the life of the School. They will help every student, on their journey into adulthood, to become capable of principled leadership, constructive team membership, to be successful in the world of work and to contribute to the life and well-being of the communities in which they live.

- 3.4 The School will admit local children from families who are practising Christians, and from families of other backgrounds, who want an education informed by Christian values and beliefs.
- 3.5 The RE curriculum and collective worship will be stimulating and challenging for all students. The Christian approach to living and learning will naturally be prominent, but students will develop proper regard for other faiths and belief systems, by learning about them and by exploring and debating faith, beliefs and values

4. **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- 4.1 Worship will be an integral part of the life of Fulham Boys School.
- 4.2 Overall themes for each half-term and particular themes for each week will form the focus for assemblies and collective worship. This programme, as part of the Christian ethos programme for the whole school, will be overseen and developed by the Chaplain.
- 4.3 The daily act of worship, whether in forms or assemblies, may include opportunities for giving praise, thanks and honour to God and a time of reflection. It will be based on the teachings of the Bible, with these teachings being explained in an accessible way.
- 4.4 Students will have the opportunity to participate in collective worship in their houses and tutorial groups. There will also be regular opportunities for whole school acts of worship.
- 4.5 Students will be encouraged to lead, contribute to and participate in worship.
- 4.6 We will build strong links with our local churches, and wish them to play a part in the life of the school. They will be represented on our Governing Body and sub-committees.
- 4.7 Local church leaders will regularly be invited into the school to lead assemblies.
- 4.8 The school Chaplain provides spiritual, ethical and religious guidance as well as leading worship at school gatherings.
- 4.9 The whole school gathers together to mark events of national importance (such as Remembrance Day).
- 4.10 The Fulham Boys School aims to allow members of its community time and space to explore their own beliefs, to reflect and consider spiritual and moral values and make their own responses. It also recognises those concepts, principles and behaviours that characterise the highest examples and achievement of the human spirit as worthy of celebration.

5. ASSEMBLIES

- 5.1 All students at The Fulham Boys School attend assemblies
- 5.2 Students and staff are encouraged to contribute and participate in worship if they feel comfortable about doing so.
- 5.3 Music and singing in assemblies provide an opportunity for student participation.
- 5.4 Silence has an important place within the worship life of the school, with students being required to enter assembly in silence to preserve a reflective and worshipful attitude.
- 5.5 It is the hope that through the assemblies students might:
 - 5.5.1 Come to recognise their responsibilities to the School
 - 5.5.2 Come to recognise their wider responsibilities to the community
 - 5.5.3 Learn respect for each other
 - 5.5.4 Develop a sense of self worth
 - 5.5.5 Appreciate their environment both in school and out of school
 - 5.5.6 Strengthen a common moral and social purpose
 - 5.5.7 Understand our place in God's world and His place in our lives
 - 5.5.8 Take ownership of school attitudes towards bullying, dishonesty, self-discipline, concern for others, smoking, drugs and other values and principles which promote the ethos of the School.
- 5.6 The importance of social enterprise will be emphasised in assemblies and through forms.
- 5.7 Provision is made for students to attend two assemblies a week (House and Chaplain's).

6. TUTOR TIME REFLECTIONS

- 6.1 The requirement that students attend a daily act of worship is met by tutor time reflections in addition to these assemblies. These times of reflections are led within form groups in morning registration.
- 6.2 Tutor time reflections are designed to foster reflective learning through thinking and listening skills used within a short act of collective worship. Reflections also support the formation of a tutor group's identity and development of students' collaborative learning across SMSC dimensions. The use of prayer and scripture ensure that the reflections enable students to worship and make connections between contemporary experience and faith, along with the wider curriculum.

- 6.3 Delivery of the tutor time reflection is under the supervision of the form tutor.
- 6.4 The Chaplain or chaplaincy team generate resources for the reflections that reflect the theme of the week.
- 6.5 The tutor time reflections allow the school to provide a daily act of corporate worship for students.
- 6.6 Silence features as an integral part of this corporate act of worship, usually kept at the end.

7. SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

- 7.1 Our Chaplain is involved in planning and delivering acts of worship and Christianity based enrichment activities.
- 7.2 He also works more widely to liaise with, advise and support colleagues responsible for the welfare and social development of students.
- 7.3 He works closely with churches connected to the school and other Christian organisations.
- 7.4 The chaplain seeks to ensure that the needs of all students are met through the assembly material delivered.
- 7.5 The Chaplain is available for 1:1 training and support with staff with the delivery of assemblies as required.

8. THE RE CURRICULUM

- 8.1 The aim of RE is to explore the place and explicit significance of religion in human life, making a distinctive contribution to each student's understanding of the major religious faiths in the world. It also contributes to students' wider development, spiritually, morally, culturally, and socially. All concerned will seek to ensure that it promotes understanding and respect for those who follow other faiths. However, it is recognised that RE is a curriculum discipline and therefore there is an important distinction in approach between it and collective acts of worship.
- 8.2 RE will be taught with a focus on Christianity and Christian thinking on ethical and philosophical issues (making up at least 2/3rds of the RE curriculum) but also will include the study of other world religions.
- 8.3 It is anticipated that all students will study RE at GCSE.

9. STAFFING

- 9.1 Strong Christian leadership will provide a clear sense of direction for Fulham Boys School. The School's leadership will explicitly seek to provide care for the physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing of all those who work at The Fulham Boys School.
- 9.2 In appointing staff to The Fulham Boys School, governors will seek to select those who demonstrate a commitment to creating an innovative and successful school together with the skills and personal qualities to make a contribution towards achieving this goal.
- 9.3 All staff will be expected to understand, support and respect the Christian values upon which the School is founded in their dealings with students, adults and the way in which they carry out their professional duties. We believe our Christian duty is to appoint the best teachers that will provide the highest standards of teaching and learning for all our pupils and be role- models of behaviour. We will welcome applications from those of all faiths and none, provided they support the Christian ethos of the School.