



St Augustine's Catholic College

Collective Worship Policy

AIMS

The aim of the Collective Worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:

- Worship God;
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;
- Consider spiritual and moral issues;
- Respond to the worship offered

STATUTORY DUTY

The College has a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship and this is offered through the weekly year group assemblies and morning class assemblies. In addition a prayer is said at the beginning of each lesson throughout the College.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- Inclusive in nature;
- Broadly educational in content;
- Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.

Inclusive

The College requires its assemblies to:

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our multicultural society. However the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- Be suitable for every student to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians;
- Focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the students;
- Include active participation by students, parents and members of the local parishes – either in preparation or in performance.

Educational

The College requires its assemblies to:

- Reflect the aims of the College and foster a sense of shared values;
- Be valuable learning experiences and, as such, to be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning;
- To enhance, complement and extend the curricular work;
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the students;
- To provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

The assemblies should:

- Provide a brief period of relaxation from the busy life of the college, when students will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure;
- Provide students with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words. The writings of the world's great religions, their prophets and followers provide a source of meaningful stories and philosophies for life;
- Provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers;
- Have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the college day.

The celebration of Holy Mass

This is the most important example of collective worship which takes place in our College. Each teaching group will have a Mass which is prepared and eventually takes place within the RE timetable.

College Lay Chaplain

- All forms of assemblies – excluding the celebration of Holy Mass – are open to review, evaluation and expansion, which constitutes a responsibility of the College Lay Chaplain.

IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

The Head of RE will ensure that this policy is implemented and evaluated under the direction of the Head Teacher who has overall responsibility.