



Weald of Kent Grammar School

Collective Worship Policy – June 2022

Philosophical statement

Everything we do at Weald of Kent aims at developing a culture of learning underpinned by our values of: individuality, integrity, good manners, tolerance and resilience.

By the time our students leave the Weald of Kent at the end of their secondary school lives, we wish our students to:

- Be happy, positive, responsible, ambitious and proactive
- Lead a good life
- Demonstrate resilience and emotional awareness
- Be compassionate and listen to others
- Value modern democracy
- Show great ability, knowledge and skills
- Endeavour to become life-long learners with transferrable skills
- Respond effectively and positively to challenges
- Aim to do well
- Think hard
- Get ready for post-18 life in a global and diverse world

In short, to achieve academic excellence and personal success.

In addition, at Weald of Kent we actively promote Fundamental British Values through our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) provision, school values, curriculum and extra-curricular enrichment activities and we set out explicitly how we deliver British values within our school in our Statement on British Values. Our school promotes fundamental British values in relation to democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty and mutual respect for those with different beliefs.

The legal requirements

It is a legal requirement that schools provide a daily act of collective worship for all students. The regulations are set out in the Education Act 1944 as amended by The Education Reform Act 1988.

The Act states that collective worship organised by the school is to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. For those acts that are broadly Christian, the main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief. (The Education Reform Act 1988: Religious Education and Collective Worship para.34)

Weald of Kent also follows the advice on Collective Worship from the DfE circular 1/94 from January 1994 *“Collective worship in county schools and equivalent grant-maintained schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.”*

In accordance with section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act (1998), all parents and carers have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from participating in acts of worship on ground of conscience. Sixth form students may withdraw themselves after the age of 18. Teachers have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship (but not assemblies) and cannot be required to lead acts of worship.

Practice

At Weald of Kent, we are committed to an active and broad approach to collective worship in the belief that this is a significant aspect of our students' personal development and of providing a broad and balance curriculum for all. This not only reflects the school's ethos and values, but also aims to raise awareness as well as encourage inclusion, cultural diversity, individual needs, empathy and tolerance.

Our arrangements to deliver collective worship are in the forms of:

- Daily morning 25-minute-long form time with focused and reflective activities
- A weekly assembly with each year group
- A fortnightly one-hour PHSCE session for each year group
- A fortnightly two-hours of Religious Education lessons in Key Stage 3
- Special seasonal events, acts of remembrance and themed national days

The PSHCE curriculum explicitly raises the students' awareness of British values and helps to prepare our students for life in modern Britain.

Our students have also access to a wide and enriching experience of social, moral, spiritual and cultural education across the school. All of our curriculum subjects contribute to this aspect of the students' education, with some subjects: Art; Dance; DT; Drama; English; Geography; History; Modern Foreign Languages; Music; PE; RE and Science and Social Sciences taking a leading role in its delivery. Our programme of extra-curricular activities also contributes significantly to our students' personal development in this area. We offer a wide, rich set of experiences for our students.

All of the school's assemblies contribute to deepening our students' experience of social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects. They also promote British values as an integral part of our work. All subjects across the curriculum also contribute explicitly to this work with the following subjects taking a leading role: English; Geography; History; MFL; Politics; Religious Education; Science and Sociology.

Vote for Schools is used weekly by Form Tutors and plays a role also in supporting our work on British values via both form time tutorials, assemblies and discrete lessons. This programme significantly contributes to enhancing further the SMSC provision within the school and engaging the students regularly in debating and exercising their democratic right to vote on a pertinent contemporary issue, so that their voice is not only heard, but valued.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the overall responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure acts of worship are effective, fit for purpose and conducted in accordance with the school's policies.

The Quality of Care within the school is led by the Senior Deputy Headteacher who has strategic responsibility for all aspects of the pastoral provision and is supported by both Deputy Headteachers as well as Assistant Headteachers for its daily operational implementation. They also monitor and quality assure the delivery of collective worship on a regular basis.

Each Head of Year is accountable for the quality of the form tutoring and delivery of PSHCE within their own year groups. The expectation is that Heads of Year will carry out a termly PSHCE learning walk identifying best practice and any potential development points for individual teachers. Should a colleague require additional support with the delivery of PSHCE, this will be sought via the Quality of Education team. It is also expected that Heads of Year will also undertake termly Form Tutor learning walks to quality assure the standard of form tutoring in their year groups in order to share good practice and access appropriate support for any colleagues who may require it. All documentation linked to the Quality of Care aspect of the school will be stored on Sharepoint in the Quality of Care – Quality Assurance folder.

Dissemination

The policy is shared with staff through the staff handbook and is also accessible on SharePoint under the Staff Policies folder. Parents and carers are advised of school policies and have access to the documents via the school's website. In line with school policies, we endeavour to give all staff and students equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ability, age or social background.

Authors:	V. Ricks	Date:	June 2022
Next Review Date:	June 2025	Link Trustees:	Quality of Education
Ratified:	July 2022 FTB Meeting		