

**VALLEY GARDENS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET**

**Document Title:** **Collective Worship Policy**

 **Collective Worship Policy The Role of Collective Worship**

**Revision History**

| **Issue Number** | **Date** | **Reason for issue** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| V1.1 | February 2017 | Updated policy |
| V1.2 | September 2022 | S Brunskill - Head of RE updates |
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**Document Authorisation**

| **Issue Number** | **Date** | **Group** |
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| V1.1 | February 2017 | Adopted by committee |
| V1.2 | September 2022 | On Standards Committee agenda for adoption Nov 2022 |
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Collective Worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of Valley Gardens Middle School. It provides an opportunity for members of the School community to pause, to gather, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the Core Values which bind the School community together. It also allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those with no religious commitment to sense what worship is and to reflect deeply. In this way*,* we aim both to affirm and to protect the integrity of all members of the School community.

In particular, Collective Worship in our School:

* provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon our Core Values - Kindness, Resilience and Respect;
* offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and important school events;
* provides opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**Our School and the Law on Collective Worship**

At Valley Gardens Middle School, we acknowledge that the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the 1996 Education Act sets out the law regarding Collective Worship and we ensure that the 'broadly Christian character' requirement is achieved in the majority of our Acts of Collective Worship over the course of a School term. We do this by focusing our worship on our Core Values: Kindness, Resilience and Respect. This allows our Collective Worship to be conducted in a manner which is as inclusive as possible - sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of our school community. We:

* recognise that there are many forms of commitment, religious and non-religious;
* regard diversity - in religion, culture and belief - as something to be acknowledged and explored rather than avoided and denied;
* build festivals and events from a variety of cultural and religious traditions into our yearly programme.

**The organisation of Collective Worship in our School**

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis for all form classes through our ‘Thought and Action for the Week’. On Monday, the ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ is displayed in every form room during morning registration; students write it into a dedicated section of their planners as they arrive in school. The ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ is displayed during morning registration every day; discussion takes place and a range of media (for example, videos and music) is used to enhance, challenge and deepen students’ reflections.

Weekly year group assemblies also refer to the ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ and prompt discussion and reflection.

We ensure that our ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ reflects festivals from a range of religions, and also Whole School events (such as Mental Health Awareness week, Anti-Bullying week) while remaining firmly rooted in our Core Values.

**Collective Worship and the School Curriculum**

Our ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ is based around our Core Values (Kindness, Resilience and Respect) and these Core Values permeate everything that we do in school. As a result, our ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ can be referred to in many activities throughout the school day and School Staff make the most of these opportunities.

The PSHE and RE Heads of Department meet once a term to review and evaluate last term’s Collective Worship and to set up a schedule for the next term. The ‘Thought and Action for the Week’ is sent out to all staff weekly to allow them the opportunity to integrate it into their lessons where possible.

**The Right of Parents to withdraw their Children from Acts of Collective Worship**

At Valley Gardens Middle School, we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This School expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Our School has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

**The Right of Members of Staff to withdraw from Acts of Collective Worship**

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in our School. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

**The Role of Governors**

The Governing Body will review this Policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption.

Informal review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required. This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Valley Gardens Middle School. It will be reviewed by the Governors, Headteacher and the Collective Worship Coordinator in conjunction with all staff two years from the date of the signatures below.