

Collective Worship Policy

October 2009

1 Tring School

This policy has been written taking into account that Tring School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school and is the only secondary school in the area providing education for the majority of 11-18 year olds in Tring and the surrounding villages.

Tring School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its students whilst remaining sensitive to the views of other faiths.

2 Aim

The aim of Collective Worship at Tring School is to introduce students to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions. In brief, Collective Worship is the term for what might be called the 'religious [aspect](#)' of assembly.

It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in church schools actively to evangelise. There is, inevitably, an aspect of any act of worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community. This is done, however, by including those present - not by using Collective Worship to campaign for some kind of "commitment" which is inappropriate in a school setting. Collective Worship is collective not corporate. In other words it is something we do together but embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

The school's distinctive Christian ethos is further carried in to the life of the school by the display of the School Prayer [around the school](#) and Christian artefacts in reception.

3 Aims of Tring School

True to our motto, 'Learn to live, live to learn', Tring School aims to create:

- ★ a tolerant community in which all feel
 - safe
 - supported
 - accepted and valued
- ★ an active community which provides equal opportunity for all
 - to be involved
 - to grow
 - to develop their ability to the full
- ★ a vibrant community which stimulates and encourages
 - a love of learning
 - self-discipline and mutual respect
 - pride in achievement
- ★ a developing community which recognises that
 - learning is lifelong
 - we are part of a wider community
 - each individual has a role to play

4 Statutory Requirements

The OFSTED/SIAS requirements for Collective Worship are that collective Worship should:

1. be available for all students
2. be truly worship
3. be enjoyable
4. allow time for reflection
5. be age appropriate
6. be suitable for all abilities
7. be appropriate to the background of the students
8. involve the students
9. be monitored by a member of the Leadership Team
10. involve the community but still be controlled by the school

The school recognises that the legal requirement for Collective Worship is that each student should experience an act of worship every day. Whilst it is not practical to strictly comply with this element we shall make every effort to ensure that at least part of the school is engaged in such activity daily.

Legislation allows parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship (and Religious Education). At Tring School this needs to be done in writing to the Headteacher. Members of staff have the same right.

(The Education Reform Act 1996)

5 The content of Assembly/Collective Worship at Tring School:

1. Assembly/Collective Worship will be Christian. Diversity is valued and other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship.
2. Assembly/Collective Worship will take place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require.
3. Assembly/Collective Worship can involve either House groups, individual year groups and Key Stage groups or individual classes can hold their own acts of worship. Students will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.
4. Themes for assembly will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to a continuing story or the exploration of particular religious practices.
5. When appropriate, Assembly/Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or international, of which the students may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
6. Whilst most acts of Assembly/Collective Worship will be held in the school an Act of Worship will be held at Christmas at St Peter & St Paul in Tring.
7. A minister from Tring Team Parish will be invited to lead Assembly/Collective Worship on a regular basis, with the aim to this being delivered once a week.
8. Ministers from other Christian denominations will be encouraged to lead Assembly/Collective Worship. From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Assembly/Collective Worship.
9. Assembly/Collective Worship takes place in non-curriculum time and although it should connect with, and reinforce the curriculum, it should not be constrained by it.

6 The style of Assembly/Collective Worship at Tring School:

1. The Monday assembly will be an explicit Act of Worship led by a Christian minister. The assemblies during the remainder of the week will concentrate on appropriate themes that help develop the aims of Tring School.
2. Collective Worship should
 - (i) provide an opportunity for students to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
 - (ii) **Provide the opportunity for students to be actively involved in the preparation and presentation of Collective Worship as part of the assembly programme.**
3. Collective Worship may include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. The playing of music into and out of the assembly can set the right tone.
4. There may be room for questions and answers - and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
5. There may be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
6. Assembly/Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored but never be a time simply for corporate discipline!
7. Assembly/Collective Worship should allow opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will however be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.
8. Every act of Assembly/Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending and always includes the School Prayer.
9. Those leading Acts of Worship should be encouraged to use modern technology to present Christian images and the use of music from the religious traditions.

7 Monitoring and Evaluation

A record of assemblies will be kept and a member of the Leadership Team will review Assembly/Collective Worship once a term. The Students and Families Committee of the Governing Body will receive a report once a year and will be responsible for reviewing the Collective Worship policy every three years.