

## Collective Worship Policy Shaftesbury School

### Philosophy

Shaftesbury School and Sports College C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided/Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community:

- for a time of thoughtful reflection, celebration, and spiritual nurture
- drawing on, amongst other things, story, teaching and engagement, music, images, symbols and silence,
- recognising the relevance and centrality of the teaching and example of Jesus Christ
- all within the Christian ethos of praise and thanksgiving to God, awareness of our own humanity, care and compassion for others
- While respecting the differing faiths and beliefs all members of the school.

It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Shaftesbury School & Sports College we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

### Aims

It is our aim at Shaftesbury School that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

### **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations and Community Citizenship takes place in Church and the community; for example; at the Christmas Carol Service, Women's World Day of Prayer, The Shaftesbury Abbey Pilgrimage Day & e.g. students work in service for the community at Lent; through our local Churches Together Lent Lunches. Further we work in partnership with the Salisbury Diocese on many events and services and where the opportunity arises, with other denominations and faith members, e.g. through work within the RE Department and through SACRE. The Worship Co-ordinator is a member of the Dorset SACRE.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has major practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation, seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible both within the main hall and in tutor group environments; we have a Chaplaincy Team and Collective Worship Co-ordinator to ensure that this happens in practice. We are committed to our Trust Deed.

We aim to provide students with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of House Group Acts of Worship for all pupils in a House or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups as appropriate to the time of year and cohort. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day but it is usual at 2.40pm in the main school hall according to a House rotation. Tutors may refer to a pre-prepared resource of Thought for the Week, ICT accessible for all tutor rooms, at 2.40pm when not in Assembly or Collective Worship.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors, who after consultation with the head teacher have appointed [Mrs Julia Linsley \(Head of RE\)](#) with the responsibility for [Co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school, in partnership with Rev.Clive Thomas, Chaplaincy Team Leader.](#)

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:-

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Shaftesbury School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. This also applies to faith background as we have an International Boarding House and therefore usually, students of different faiths attend our Collective worship regularly, without issues of withdrawal.

The school recognises that there is a *distinct difference* between Acts of Collective Worship and the Assembly of students. On some occasions Assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the *transition* from Assembly to worship *will be marked* in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Shaftesbury 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 Head teacher/Worship Co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. It is unheard of, to date, for this request to be made however; the school has a system of suitable supervision in place for students withdrawn from

Acts of Collective Worship and students will be placed in the care of the Heads of House office, however, no additional work is set or followed in this time and the student will be supervised only.

All teachers, including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head Teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Shaftesbury school. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

### **Organisation**

For the day and Head of House leading, please see the Collective worship file which is updated. Full Planning, on an annual basis, takes place between the [Co-ordinator, Mrs Julia Linsley](#) and [The Lead of Chaplaincy Team Rev.Clive Thomas](#).

All Collective worship takes place in the Main Hall at 2.40pm unless otherwise advised to whole school.

The Music Department ([Mr Neil McMullan & designated staff](#)) are integral to Collective Worship Planning for entry music and set pieces are planned as appropriate. The Head of Music is entitled to attend the Assembly review meetings and any Chaplaincy Team meeting as required or requested.

Acts of Collective Worship in the Main hall are normally *led* by Clergy and *introduced* by the Head of House but may also be led by Leadership, Heads of House, tutors and / or students should clergy not be available.

On those days when a Tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is assumed that the form tutor will develop /discuss the theme for the week, on one day, with the tutor group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week. The Worship Co-ordinator will ask for and collect evaluations from Tutors on this basis.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective worship at Shaftesbury School is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied and there is evidence of this in planning. All Staff and clergy have received varied planning resources

with ICT presentation/ power point facilities and offers of help from teaching staff to co-ordinate drama and music presentations.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly on-line bulletin sent to all staff. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that Worship leaders and Clergy may feel that they need to respond to local; national or global events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan their act of worship on a simple proforma. These include a space for Self Evaluation. These planning sheets should be sent to [Mrs. Julia Linsley as Co-Ordinator](#) when completed as this then forms the schools record of worship in our SEF. An open book is kept in the staff room for staff to write comments on the act of worship they have seen. Clergy and staff will evaluate this termly with students; [staff and a Head of House representative](#).

A Worship Committee meets once a term attended by the [Worship Co-ordinator Julia Linsley and Chaired by the Chaplaincy Team Leader Rev. Clive Thomas](#). These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term and discuss progress and development.

[The Rev. Ann Heywood](#), one of the schools foundation governors, has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept in the former Time Out Room. We aim to constantly update and renew resources and the Foundation Governors respond positively to any request for funding to renew and replace. Use is also made of the Bishop Wordsworth trust through Salisbury Diocese. Resources for Collective worship are to be treated with respect and the Co-ordinator works with House Representatives to ensure that resources are kept clean and ready for use by Clergy and others as necessary.

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*\* The named Staff and Stakeholders in blue will have their job description reviewed on an annual basis in relation to Collective Worship responsibilities.*

Approved Jan 2008

Julia Linsley and All Stakeholders : Reviewed May 2007