

Langley Grammar School



Collective Worship Statement November 2024

1. Legal requirements

Collective worship remains a legal requirement in local authority maintained state schools under the Education Act 1996.

The DfE has published information for academies and free schools about providing religious education (RE) and collective worship. This guidance was last updated in December 2012; this remains current and states that:

- *An academy's funding agreement should mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in local authority maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70.*
- *Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation.*

Langley Grammar School's funding agreement as an academy trust dates from 24 March 2011 and Clause 24 states that

- *The Academy Trust shall make provision for the teaching of religious education and a daily act of collective worship*

According to legislation, academies without a religious designation must provide collective worship that is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community, as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.

The aim of collective worship is to provide students with opportunities to:

- 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 personally to the worship offered.

There is no legal requirement for schools to have a policy on collective worship. However, this collective worship statement sets out the extent to which the School is able to meet the legislative requirements.

2. Aims

The school acknowledges the intent of the legislation but in common with most schools has considerable practical difficulties in meeting the requirement. We seek to reflect the spirit of this legislation by providing high quality opportunities for consideration of spiritual, moral and ethical issues within a clear framework of values.

The intention of these opportunities is to:

- contribute to the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values and ethos of the school community;
- allow reflection and response to 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 to mark occasions of significance, including religious festivals and national events;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;

3. Implementation

Although the school has a range of venues suitable for assemblies, space limitations prevent the whole school congregating together except on rare occasions. The school therefore offers a pattern of weekly assemblies to all year groups.

A diverse range of faith backgrounds are represented within the school and our approach to assemblies therefore involves consideration of themes that are relevant to all faiths – and indeed to those with no faith. rather than worship focused on any one of these religions. This may take the form of looking at issues such as spirituality, world injustice and poverty within a framework which reflects fundamental British values.

Staff and students are encouraged to lead or contribute. Outside speakers, including leaders from local faith communities, occasionally contribute to assemblies; the school has a separate policy which sets out how external speakers are expected to work within the framework of fundamental British values.

4. Right of withdrawal

Teaching staff, especially those with form tutor responsibilities, are expected to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Headteacher.

Parents of a student have a right to withdraw their son or daughter from collective worship. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly itself.

Policy approval

This policy has been reviewed and approved in line with the LGS Policy framework agreed by the Governing Board in July 2023.

Reviewed by	Senior Leadership Team	Date	Oct 2024
Approved by	Headteacher	Date	Nov 2024
Next Review		Date	By Sep 2026