Brentford School for Girls
Collective Worship/Reflection Policy

Rev	*Date*	*Description*
4	June 2022	Reviewed
3	June 2021	Reviewed
2	June 2019	Reviewed
1	June 2017	Initial version.

PRINCIPLES:

Brentford School for Girls believes that collective worship/reflection both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the Brentford girl; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship/reflection. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship/reflection each day. These acts of worship/reflection must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" therefore reflective of British values for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

Families who send their children to this school are from a range of faith backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship/reflection we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship/reflection we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

PRACTICE:

At Brentford School for Girls we combine our acts of worship/reflection with assembly, helping to ensure that worship/reflection takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one assembly each week for every pupil in the school. In addition, form tutors lead tutor groups through a collective focus task.

The Headteacher, Senior Leaders and Year Leaders lead the whole school worship/reflection each week. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at School Council meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship/reflection/reflection after consulting with the governing body.
- An Assistant Headteacher is responsible for planning the calendar of themes.
- The SMSC Lead is responsible for planning collective focus tasks.
- All Form Tutors deliver the collective focus tasks
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship/reflection/reflection. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship/reflection at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship/reflection, but not from assembly.
- The SLT is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the website.

DISSEMINATION:

This policy is shared with all staff through the Staff Policies Files. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the school website.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Collective Worship/reflection/Reflection is monitored regularly through Monitoring Weeks and Head of Year Learning Walks.

APPENDIX 1

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND CONDUCTING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP/REFLECTION

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors
- Online / digital content

SONG/MUSIC

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. Music from a variety of cultures and types is used on occasions.

PRAYER/REFLECTION

The use of prayer has led to a great deal of debate. We feel that, whilst prayer/reflection is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. Various forms of reflective activities can be used to distance children, whilst giving them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Christian/Hindu/Muslim prayer/poem/reading…' In this way we are able to use reflection from many different traditions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.