



SEXEY'S
SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Date of Policy	January 2025
Review Date	January 2028
SLT Lead	Pastoral
Policy last reviewed by	Philip Clackson
Policy Level	School Level

We believe that all children and young people should have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise the additional needs of children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

SCHOOL ETHOS AND VALUES

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 7 core values of:

- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect

These core values underpin our policies, procedures and the way we treat one another in our community and is an important part of the life at Sexey's.

Collective Worship gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate the experience of Spiritual learning experience which takes the form of Encounters (learning about life), Reflective opportunities (learning from life) and Transformation (teaching students to live life to the fullest).

It is an area of Sexey's School life which draws most strongly on its Christian foundation and the creativity of its staff and students and is strongly rooted in the tenets of the Christian faith. It is one of the means whereby Christian values and principles may be reflected and affirmed. This provides an opportunity for the spirituality of students, staff and governors to find expression and development. See Appendix A.

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

Aims

The aims of collective worship at Sexey's School are to:

- celebrate the uniqueness of each individual created in the image of God and therefore develop each person's self-esteem
- to be inclusive and provide the opportunity for all members to worship God and to see worship as relevant to everyday life;
- encourage individuals to reflect upon spiritual and moral values by presenting issues which relate to their development, and fostering a sense of belonging to the school as a community;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- be invitational
- explore beliefs and faith
- reinforce the school's Christian & Core Values, whilst also reflecting the UNICEF Rights Respecting School principles.
- Celebrate, give thanks and inspire others for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including Christian festivals
- encourage participation, response and help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values;
- promote an awareness of causes and social concerns in the contemporary world for which the school might, where practicable, provide some active support
- link the school community with the life of the worldwide church, promoting social cohesion.
- reinforce positive attitudes and support the social and emotional aspects of pupils learning
- promote an ethos which values imagination, inspiration, contemplation, and a clear sense of right and wrong.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

Collective worship satisfies the requirement in the 1988 Education Reform Act and is distinctively Christian to affirm the values of the school which are located in their Christian context

- Collective worship seeks to enable the school community to develop personal spirituality and an understanding of Christian theology

In addition to Collective worship, special celebrations take place with services conducted by the local Rector. Sometimes these are held in St Mary's Church in Bruton.

Policy into Practice

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 considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation by aiming to provide as many high-quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

The responsibility for arranging school worship rests with the Governors who after consultation with the Headteacher have delegated the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school to the Headteacher.

Acts of Collective Worship at Sexey's school take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. Assemblies for each year group and house occur regularly and are held at separate times from collective worship.

Entitlement

The school is required to provide an opportunity for regular acts of collective worship for all students, however, it is the governors desire to provide this opportunity to every member to the school community. During time set aside for the daily act of collective worship other activities should, where safe and practical, be set aside for every individual to take a few moments to 'pause for thought', have silent reflection, personal prayer or to join in communal prayer, such as the prayer for the week or The Lord's Prayer. Spiritual and moral topics will be provided for group discussion and reflection.

The daily act of collective worship should normally take place during the time allocated for assembly or registration.

The Governing Body shall make arrangements for affording any pupil who is a boarder at the school the opportunity to attend worship in accordance with the tenets of a particular religious denomination on Sundays or other days exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs. Such arrangements may provide for affording facilities for such worship on the school premises, so however such arrangements shall not entail expenditure by the governing body. The Sanctuary (formerly the School Chapel) is set aside as a place for quiet reflection for students and staff of any denomination and faith

Every effort will be made to enable members of the school community from other faiths, who wish to observe the requirements for prayer particular to their beliefs are able to do so in accordance with the doctrines of that faith.

Regularity

Collective worship occurs at least twice a week as a whole school in the sports hall and in year group assemblies. It can also take place in Tutor or other small groups. In addition to this at key Christian festivals and celebratory events an additional collective worship will take place. For example: remembrance, Christmas, Easter and end of term.

Assemblies

All assemblies will contain a brief element of collective worship where relevant.

Chaplaincy

As an Anglican school, Sexey's shares a lay School Chaplain with 2 other schools. Chaplaincy includes developing spirituality within the school, advising (where appropriate) the school leadership and staff on spiritual matters, working with the students to promote an understanding of the Christian life and with them assist in the planning, preparation, and delivery of Acts of Collective worship, including the boarding weekend services. He/she will also liaise with appropriate individuals and organisations (Rector of St Mary's, Bruton, Master of Sexey's Hospital, The Bishop of Bath & Wells) to secure their support for and involvement in the Christian life of the school.

The Role of the Tutor

Whilst there is no requirement for a teacher to lead collective worship, in their role as Tutor. They are required to ensure that the time set aside for the 'weekly act of collective worship'. This is facilitated through a prerecorded video and suggested discussion topics for follow up. If the tutor does not wish to lead the worship, they may arrange for a member of their form group, an attached Sixth Form Student, Prefect, or the Chaplain to lead the worship, should they feel unable to lead this.

Content

The content of acts of collective worship will be wholly or mainly of broadly Christian nature (i.e., 'must contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief, and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.' DfEE 1/94.)

The Chaplain will provide speakers with guidelines to ensure that no student is excluded from the act of worship due to content or delivery.

Planning

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each fortnight there is a theme for Collective worship, however it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Rights of Withdrawal

The school will respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship provided they communicated this wish to the Headteacher in writing.

Staff are not required to lead collective acts of worship, but they are expected to be sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the school and to support this by attendance at assemblies and services when they are on duty. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Review

This policy will be reviewed 3 yearly

Appendix A to the Collective Worship Policy HISTORY OF SEXEY'S SCHOOL

Hugh Sexey was the son of poor parents who resided in or near Bruton. His birth was circa 1556 and his baptism is recorded in Bruton Parish Church on 18th November 1556. He was therefore a member of the Church of England.

He became one of the seven auditors to Elizabeth I and James I, and a rich man. He married twice, but no children were born of either marriage.

The Trustees of his Will created the Hospital at Bruton to care for twelve poor aged persons and later extended their expenditure to allow for the education of twelve boys initially in reading, writing and arithmetic for three years and, from the age of fourteen, apprenticed to mechanical trades for seven years. Thus, Sexey's School was established within the Hospital grounds.

In 1889 the Sexey's Trade School was founded in temporary premises at West Bruton and transferred to its present site in 1890. Its title changed to Sexey's Boys School under the 1910 scheme. This then, following the 1944 Education Act, became a Voluntary Controlled School.

The Scheme of 1961 made provision for the religious instruction to be in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England, under regulations to be made by the Trustees, with the school being conducted within the meaning of the Education Acts 1944-1959. The Trustees were required to appoint four Church of England Foundation Governors.

On achieving Grant Maintained status in 1991, the Foundation Governors were increased to ten. They are charged with securing that the established character of the school is preserved and developed in accordance with the provisions of any trust deed or other instrument relating to it. Of the Foundation Governors at least four have to be members of the Church of England.

With the demise of Grant Maintained Status on 31st March 1999, in accordance with its Christian Foundation the school was granted Voluntary Aided Status. Moral and spiritual support is provided by the Diocese of Bath & Wells.

From the above, it follows that the school has a Christian Foundation with close links to the Church of England. The 1988 Education Reform Act and DES Circular 3/89 Religious Education and Collective Worship require schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for every pupil unless that pupil is withdrawn under the conscience clause.

The current edition of the school's prospectus notes that the school has an Anglican Foundation, with pupils of all faiths or none welcomed. On Sunday mornings the whole school attends an act of Christian worship either in school or the Parish church of St Mary's, Bruton whilst Roman Catholic pupils attend Mass. Pupils requesting Confirmation as full members of the Anglican Church may receive appropriate guidance and instruction from the Parish Priest of St Mary's, Bruton before being confirmed.