



Archbishop Tenison's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

School Policy 1 - Collective Worship

The Governors' Committee responsible for this policy is the Ethos and Pastoral Care Committee. The person in school who prepares the text of the policy for the Governors is the Headteacher. This policy was reviewed in October 2025 and is reviewed annually.

Introduction

All pupils and students at Archbishop Tenison's take part in various acts of worship throughout the school week. This takes the form of:

- a weekly School Assembly in the Hall
- a weekly Year Assembly at St. Matthew's Church (or a Sixth Form Assembly in the Hall)
- a daily act of Morning Prayer
- prayer at the start of each lesson, which changes each half term.
- or an Assembly Follow Up Task in morning Tutor Time once a week

Rationale of this policy

Having a time of collective worship, in keeping with the Christian character of the school will enable pupils, students and staff to reflect for themselves on their personal faith, academic purpose, social responsibility and school life in an encouraging atmosphere at the start of each school day.

Responsibility for collective worship is shared:

- Governors set the policy and take advice from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
- the Headteacher has overall responsibility for the quality of assemblies at the school
- the Deputy Headteacher works with the Headteacher and Chaplaincy Team, to oversee the whole school assemblies and plan the programme for these each half-term
- all members of the Senior Leadership Team play a leading role in taking assemblies and setting a good standard through their contributions
- Heads of Year have responsibility for year assemblies and oversee the work of Form Tutors
- a member of school staff prepares the material for use in the Assembly Follow Up Task
- all members of staff, and particularly Form Tutors, guide pupils to make the most of the assemblies in which they take part and are role models for them in this
- pupils and students are expected to respond to what they hear in assemblies and lead assemblies within their year group, under the supervision of their Senior Pastoral Lead, Head of Year and Chaplaincy Team

Principles

Assemblies draw on the resources of the Christian tradition for biblical readings and prayers as a way of providing a tried and tested structure for what happens. The best assemblies engage pupils' and students' interest by tackling themes relevant to them and in a way which helps them to think through these issues for themselves. A structured programme gives assemblies a clear sense of direction through a term or an academic year. Good use of audio-visual resources can help to make an assembly more lively and more memorable. External speakers are sometimes invited into the school to give an assembly, where someone from outside the school is better equipped to speak on this particular theme.

Review, monitoring and evaluation of assemblies is undertaken regularly by all those responsible for particular types of assemblies. Pupil and student feedback is collected periodically – e.g. through the School Council or in conversations with staff or external advisors.