



# Archbishop Tenison's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

## School Policy 2 - Church Services

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

### Introduction

As a Church of England school we undertake to give all pupils and students at Archbishop Tenison's the opportunity to take part in an Anglican church service on each of the following occasions:

- at the start of the school year in September
- at Christmas (at the end of the Autumn Term)
- at Easter (at the end of the Spring Term)
- at the end of the school year in July

We are also committed to holding a Year Eucharist for each year group once in each academic year. These Eucharists follow the following pattern:

|         |                                     |               |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Year 7  | Harvest                             | October       |
| Year 8  | Advent                              | late November |
| Year 9  | Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul | late January  |
| Year 10 | Lent                                | early March   |
| Year 11 | End of GCSE exams                   | May           |
| Year 12 | start of A2 courses                 | June          |
| Year 13 | leaving school                      | May           |

On Founder's Day (usually the last Friday before the first May Bank Holiday) the whole school attends a special service at Croydon Minster to mark the anniversary of the foundation of the school by Archbishop Thomas Tenison and to look forward together to the next year in the life of the school.

The Carol Service for the whole school community is held on an evening in December. Attendance is voluntary.

A short 5-minute service of Morning Prayer is held in the school reception at the start of each day. This is open to all members of the school community and is usually attended by 6-10 people. It includes a short psalm or canticle, a daily reading, prayers, the Lord's Prayer and a collect.

### Rationale of this policy

To give pupils, students and staff at the school access to Anglican worship in a formal setting at significant moments in the year and in pupils' and students' school career; our purpose is to make these services simple to follow, yet well structured; informative as well as inspiring; reflective and celebratory.

**Responsibility** for these services is shared

- Governors set the policy and take advice from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
- the School Chaplain (and Lay Chaplain) officiate at these services and provide liturgical advice, leadership and support for their planning and conduct
- the Head of Music ensures there is an appropriate musical accompaniment and contribution
- the Headteacher has overall responsibility for services, ensuring they are well planned and led

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Headteacher: Richard Parrish MA (Oxon)

- the Deputy Headteacher works with the Headteacher to put the practical arrangements in place
- all members of the Senior Leadership Team have a leading role in making them work well
- the Lay Chaplain responsibility for planning and organising Year Eucharists
- all staff, particularly Form Tutors, guide and help pupils to participate fully in these services
- pupils and students are expected to participate well and conduct themselves in a way which is appropriate for an act of worship at church.

### **Principles**

The services follow a traditional Anglican liturgy and format. There are good opportunities for active pupil and student participation in readings, prayers, reflections, music and drama. The priority, however, is that the service is well conducted and are accessible and inclusive to those who attend. The Lay Chaplain works with the pupils and students involved in the readings and prayers and are confident in their participation. All services include a talk or talks with a relevant Christian message for the occasion as well as personal reflection on the set theme. It is important that pupils and students learn to respect and appreciate the practice of formal worship on such occasions, regardless of whether they normally attend church; for this reason we work hard to make the services both accessible and enjoyable, as well as spiritually uplifting.

**Review, monitoring and evaluation** of services is undertaken each time by all those involved in leading them. Pupil and student feedback is collected informally afterwards or, more formally, in the planning process for the next occasion.