

# St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

A Church of England Academy

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

APPROVED: November 2017  
DATE TO BE REVIEWED: March 2019

# ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

Approved: November 2017

Reviewed: November 2019

Christ is at the centre of our Church of England school community where we live, love and learn together within an inclusive and equalities framework, and where students of all faiths and none are welcomed into our Anglican Christian community. In all that we do, we seek to show God's care for our students. We value, respect and celebrate all faiths and cultures because we are inspired by a welcoming, inclusive and loving God, seen in Jesus Christ and lived out through the Holy Spirit alive in every person.

Our vision is to create a safe, caring, happy and inclusive community underpinned by our Christian values of service, compassion, justice and perseverance and our motto CARITATE ET DISCIPLINA - WITH LOVE AND LEARNING which come from the story of St Martin of Tours. Central to this is our school bible verse from the book of Corinthians.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

### Policy

St Martin's is a Church of England Academy whose Christian Ethos is central to the life of the school. Parents choose to send their daughters to the school in this knowledge. Indeed not only the parents of girls admitted to Foundation Places (60% of the intake at Year 7) but also the majority of parents of girls who take up Open Places are seeking a school with a strongly Christian character. Hence at the heart of all that the school undertakes is a recognition and an acceptance of Christian beliefs and values. Therefore, collective worship forms a natural and important part of the life of the school and is an expression of its Christian/Anglican character. It is intended that the services and assemblies will give those involved the experience of participating in Christian worship and foster their spiritual and moral development.

## 2. Practice

### 2.1 Services

Church services for the whole school are held during the school year and on special occasions:

- a) Beginning of school year church service
- b) St Martin's Day Eucharist church service
- c) Christingle Service (in school)
- d) Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Holy Trinity Church
- e) Ash Wednesday service held in school
- f) Easter Eucharist church service

- f) Founder's Day Eucharist Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, during the summer term or held at Holy Trinity
- g) A church service is held at the end of each term

At Eucharist/Communion services, students are invited to receive communion if they usually do so in their own churches. Otherwise they are invited to receive a blessing.

The Chaplain is responsible for school worship and liaises with other staff, notably the Headteacher and the Head of Music, as well as the Foundation Governor responsible for RE and Collective Worship.

## 2.2 Collective Acts of Worship

The school complies fully with the worship requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988: there is a collective act of worship each day and the great majority of acts of worship are strongly Christian in character.

### a) Act of Worship - Whole School

Twice a week the morning begins with a whole school Act of Worship in the main hall which all students and staff are expected to attend.

The Headteacher does the formal greeting then a collect is prayed, a candle is lit, and students do the bible reading. There is usually a worship song led by students or groups of students. There is then a short talk either by the Head, visiting speaker, or students. This is followed by reflection, and prayer and the dismissal. This takes place on Monday (years 7-11) and Friday (years 7-13). The Headteacher leads worship on Monday and the Chaplain leads on Friday.

### b) Act of Worship – Year Groups

Each year group will attend an Act of Worship organised and presided over by the Progress Leader. There is a variety of speakers including members of staff, form groups and visitors. There is usually a scripture, talk or presentation followed by reflection and prayer.

### c) Act of Worship – Tutor Groups

These take place twice a week or more frequently if the main hall is not available because it is in use for examinations or some other purpose. The tutor group Act of worship is prepared by the Chaplain and Headteacher and provides thought provoking materials based on the monthly theme. Resources are in a powerpoint in the shared area.

- d) During Lent, weekly lunchtime reflections take place to which the whole school community is invited. These will take place in the school Chapel.

## 2.2 Worship Format

- a) We use the 4 part model for worship – **gather, engage, respond and send**. Students are active participants in collective worship. This format is used for all Acts of Collective Worship.

- b) We use calming spiritual music at the beginning and end of worship. We gather together in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and greet each other in a call and response so we are prepared to meet with God. We include specific Anglican worship practices through our opening sentence and response and also by lighting a candle in prayer to remind us of God's Holy Spirit. This creates a distinctive atmosphere and a clearly visible focus point of readiness in Christ. This is often followed by the singing of a hymn or listening to the choir.
- c) We engage with the Bible, Christian teaching and, most importantly, God in the main part of our act of worship. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the bible and we are listening for God's message to us. The message is shared through the reading of a bible verse which we relate to our theme (which are linked to the liturgical calendar), our experience, current events, our values helps us think about how we can live more Christian lives in a loving and compassionate way.
- d) Time is set aside for reflection and thinking and responding to what has been seen and heard; giving us the opportunity to worship God. This is followed by a time of prayer.
- e) We finish our worship with a liturgical ending (call and response).

### **2.3 Themes**

Monthly themes are published linked to our school values and linking to the Christian/Church calendar and topical issues. The themes reflect the Christian year and also special activities and age appropriate topics.

### **2.4 Visiting speakers**

Appropriate arrangements should be made to receive visiting speakers, introduce them, express appreciation and bid them farewell.

### **2.5 Notices**

Notices need to be given some thought. Announcements are made before the collective act of worship rather than to blunt its impact or dispel the atmosphere that has been created by giving notices at the end.

6<sup>th</sup> Form Acts of Worship are organised by the Director of 6<sup>th</sup> Form and are in line with the policy and practice of the 11- 16 school. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form attend whole school Act of Worship on Friday.

## **Planning and Evaluation**

The Chaplain meets regularly with the Headteacher and surveys are carried out from time to time which allow students to evaluate impact and response. The students are asked to evaluate assemblies and collective worship through questionnaires and discussion on an annual basis.

