



EMMANUEL  
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

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## Collective Worship Policy



Last review: April 2020  
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Next review: April 2022

## Collective Worship

Collective Worship gives students an opportunity to explore the ultimate questions of life and to be reflective in response. It helps to illuminate the relationship between faith, morality, custom and rite, and examine truth claims from the perspective of Christianity. The collective act of worship is also a daily opportunity to consider how an expression of faith should be rational, personal and life enriching. It should also be an opportunity to address the human search for fulfilment and security beyond this material world. Over time it presents students with a complete overview of the Old and New Testaments thereby providing students with an understanding of the Judeo-Christian worldview. A further aim of Collective Worship is to ask students to consider when and where the teaching of the Bible can be applied to everyday living.

In both assemblies and Class/Tutor Reflections five objectives predominate:

1. to direct thoughts towards God to consider the nature of God and man's relationship to him
2. to afford the opportunity for all to experience, or at least observe, an act of reverence and awe
3. to consider the unique claims of Christianity with respect to Jesus Christ as the Son of God
4. to allow for prayer and/or reflection
5. to encourage the participation of all as appropriate

The key elements of the act of worship will operate around a reading from the Old or New Testament, and explanation of scripture, an application of the passage to something within students' experience, and a time of reflection with or without spoken prayer. Any announcements or other administrative duties should normally follow the time of Collective Worship. Such announcements and administrative duties must be kept within in a tight time frame so as to not encroach on the importance of reflection and worship.

All schools within the Emmanuel Schools Foundation ("Trust") shall:

- Provide an opportunity for Collective Worship which is essentially Christian in nature and this will be provided on every day of the academic year with the statutory right of withdrawal for parents who ask in writing. It is hoped that all parents will recognise the Christian ethos of the Trust and will wish their children to be included in a daily opportunity to be reflective, thoughtful and worshipful.
- Every Monday begins with an assembly for the whole school staff and student bodies [on each site]. The Assembly will include the presentation of awards, news and announcements as well as a Bible reading and thought for the week.
- Have either one or two additional assemblies during the week, with class/tutor-based opportunities for reflection or worship [class/tutor reflections] on other days based around key bible passages. (Class/tutor sessions will also address appropriate administrative issues for the day.)
- On occasions have assemblies taken by members of staff or class/tutor groups. Each school will use assemblies to mark appropriate events and promote British values, for example, at the annual Remembrance Day service.
- Have a thought for the day provided when students are away from a Trust school on official visits, tours or other similar activities with staff supervision.
- Make sure any inspection is expected to recognise the emphases outlined in the Annex on Religious Education and Collective Worship as the basis upon which to comment on these aspects of provision.

- For an *Independent School with a Religious Character Status (Regulations 2003)*, it is expected that the Principal, the Vice Principals, the Head of Philosophy, Theology and Ethics (PTE) and teachers of PTE are excluded from the right to opt out of the teaching of PTE and from attendance at, or leading of, the acts of worship that are consistent with the Trust's Christian ethos.

Additional matters:

- For assemblies, a schedule of speakers and topics will be distributed at the beginning of each half term.
- Form tutors/class teachers of students will be provided with guidance to assist preparations for tutor reflections.
- Opportunities for class/tutor reflection will be monitored at least twice a year and feedback will be provided to support the quality of delivery of the reflections.