

HEALING
SCHOOL



A Science Academy

Healing School – A Science Academy

Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy

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Consultations/Training	SLT, Governors, Learning Co-ordinators & Tutors,

POLICY STATEMENT

Definitions:

Religious Education: Religious Education in schools should seek: to develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity, as the predominant religion in Great Britain, and the other principal religions represented in the country; to encourage respect for those holding different beliefs; and to help promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development.

Collective Worship: Healing School aims to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual. Giving pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community. It is also a time of celebration and reflection.

Religious Education

Healing School recognises the central importance of religious education in promoting spiritual and moral development; Religious Education in KS3 is based on the guidelines of the LA's Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. In KS4 all pupils are entered for the AQA GCSE Religious Studies examination.

The school will make arrangements for parents to exercise their statutory right to withdraw their children from religious worship or religious education lessons.

Religious Affiliations

The school is not affiliated to any religious body. All religious teaching and school assemblies are non-denominational. Invited guests/speakers, i.e. the Gideon Society, give an annual assembly to Y7 pupils.

Collective Worship

Healing School complies with the legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship in the context of the constraints imposed by its accommodation and facilities. These dictate that pupils have a mixture each week of school assemblies (in the East Hall and the West Hall annex – usually 2 year groups at a time); Year / SLT assemblies and tutor time. Due to Covid 19 restrictions some of these assemblies may take place in classrooms via Zoom.

Healing School acts of worship, not only reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination, but may also be a time of honouring excellence and exploring and sharing things of value and worth. During such acts of worship pupils are given an opportunity to worship inwardly if they wish to do so. This may be achieved through a moment or two of reflective silence

during each act of collective worship. This will therefore allow a meaningful experience for all pupils whilst giving time for individuals to worship in the spiritual sense.

"A school is not a worshipping community but rather a worship enabling Community"
(‘Schools for Tomorrow’ ed B O’Keefe, Falmer Press)

During tutor time pupils also take part in ‘News of the Week Debate’ which is linked into the assembly themes as well as those themes linked to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural teachings of the school.

The Principal has overall responsibility for the assembly programme and ‘News of the Week Debate’, although detailed planning is delegated to a Vice Principal, Assistant Principal, Learning Co-ordinators, Tutors and Pupils who will lead the assembly or ‘Thought for the Week’ activities. Outside speakers are also invited in to lead assemblies in their field.