



ASSEMBLY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Public Sector Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for those with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Approved by SWC Committee 5 February 2025
Due for review June 2025

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Mission statement sets out our work as a school “with Christ as our guide”. Our mission as a Catholic school is therefore to set all that we do in the context of knowing and following Jesus Christ. This aspect of the school’s work is monitored as part of the annual cycle of self-review under Section 48, and is externally evaluated via Diocesan inspections.

Aim(s)

- To seek to enable students and staff to come to know the person of Jesus Christ.
- To ensure strong leadership and management of all aspects of the section 48 framework across the school.
- To ensure that all students have regular opportunities for spiritual and moral development throughout their time in our school.
- To ensure that high quality Religious Education is provided and that provision meets the directives of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.
- To ensure that our status as a Catholic school is reflected in all aspects of our work and environs.

Objectives

- To ensure that assemblies and collective worship, such as tutor prayer, reflect the life of the Church in its seasons and feasts.
- To secure the provision of a daily act of worship across the school.
- To deliver high quality religious education that is valued by students, staff and parents as a core subject.
- To foster consciously the spiritual development of all students and staff.
- To support the work of the chaplaincy and RE teams in raising standards and providing for the spiritual and moral needs of students.

Principles/values

We believe that through high quality collective worship, supported by engaging Religious Education; and underpinned by effective pastoral and Chaplaincy processes, that all members of our school community can come to know Christ, who invites us to become the best we can be.

Practice

At St Peter’s, we combine our collective worship with Assemblies and daily reflections during tutor time, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held every day, with each year group attending once a week. In exceptional circumstances, this may be delivered using alternative methods such as via Teams or Loom. This ensures that every child takes an active part in collective worship and the needs of all are met. Members of the Senior Leadership team, Heads of Year, Chaplains and other senior staff lead assemblies in accordance with the collective worship theme of the week; this also links into the thought for the day activities ensuring continuity and cohesiveness. The collective worship theme for the week is overseen by the Chaplaincy team and is the weekly focus for ‘Prayer Shots’ (the school and family prayer group).

Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading collective worship at certain times of the year. The school is committed to an active approach to collective worship in the belief that it is a significant element in our attempts to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. In this context collective worship assumes its rightful importance and reflects the ethos of our school. We, as a school, are fully committed to ensuring the social, moral, spiritual and cultural beliefs of all are met. This includes taking into consideration those who may have religious affiliations, and those, who do not.

In addition to welcome masses at the start of each academic year, we also celebrate masses and liturgies throughout the year following the liturgical calendar. A programme of retreat days is also in place within both the primary and secondary phases of the school and a weekly mass is held that is open to all staff and students to attend. We also celebrate the feast day of St Peter and St Paul with a mass together as a whole school community.

Right to withdraw

All parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from assemblies, section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998) At St Peter’s we recognise said right and arrangements for students whose parents have expressed the right of withdrawal from school collective worship is organised by the Head of Year. We do, however, have a strong tradition of

being fully inclusive, and whilst we respect parental wishes, we encourage discussion of concerns regarding collective worship to avoid students feeling excluded.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors

- Link Governor for Section 48.
- To review the progress being made against annual development targets, and to set the strategic direction for the following year in consultation with the SLT.

Headteacher

- To monitor school performance under Section 48

Member of SLT with responsibility for oversight of Section 48

- To ensure quality of provision across all sections of the Section 48 Framework.
- To advise and make recommendations to the Governing Body regarding current performance and planned developments.
- To provide support to the Chaplaincy team with planning the collective worship themes for the year

Staff Leading Assemblies

- It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the assembly theme of the week and includes the school's mission statement and a prayer.
- The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings, and prayers.

Tutor

- It is the responsibility of the tutor, or staff member escorting a tutor group, to accompany and remain with the tutor group throughout collective worship to assist with supervision. In the event of collective worship over-running into lesson time, which should not be a frequent occurrence, staff may leave whilst proceedings continue.

Monitoring and review

- Monitoring via meetings (at least termly) between Link Governor and SLT Line Manager
- Monitoring by SLT line management via engagement with Quality Assurance Processes and Line Management
- Review via termly updates to the FGB

Communication

This policy will be primarily communicated to all stakeholders via publication on the school website