

Exmouth Community College



Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy

Policy Details	Date
Policy Written	Graham Allen
Policy reviewed by governors	Curriculum Committee
Policy ratified by governors	12.01.16
Review Cycle	Annually
Policy Review date	Spring 1 2017

Exmouth Community College will promote the principle that Worship is a worthwhile activity that serves to reinforce the ethos of the College and the students' spiritual and moral development.

The Policy acknowledges Department for Education and Employment Circular Number 1/94 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', and Sections 70/71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and will seek to operate broadly within its requirements and as far as is practicable.

Definition of Worship

This is a difficult term to define in an educational setting and this policy takes its definition from 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren:

'Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship....Worship is a lifestyle'

Aims:

To provide the opportunity for participants to worship God by:

- ❖ considering spiritual and moral issues
- ❖ exploring their own beliefs
- ❖ encouraging participation and response
- ❖ developing community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Purposes:

We will use assemblies and curriculum time to evoke those senses and feelings from which worship most naturally arises:

- ❖ sense of beauty
- ❖ sense of wonder and awe
- ❖ feeling of pride
- ❖ sense of compassion
- ❖ sense of smallness in the face of greatness
- ❖ feeling of shared sadness
- ❖ sense of peace
- ❖ sense of thankfulness
- ❖ sense of stillness in the midst of a busy existence
- ❖ sense of shared humanity and its potential

Positive Outcomes:

Developing a 'lifestyle' of worship means that opportunities should be provided for:

- ❖ the whole community to celebrate
- ❖ sharing and experiencing differences
- ❖ building a sense of group identity
- ❖ encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- ❖ learning how to behave in a social group
- ❖ learning how to perform in front of an audience
- ❖ learning how to respond to a performance
- ❖ making visible the College's leadership
- ❖ developing inner awareness
- ❖ exploring feelings and emotions
- ❖ stillness and quiet

Assemblies and Collective Worship

- ❖ All Year Groups will attend assemblies regularly - organisation dependent upon availability of suitable spaces.
- ❖ A programme of Assembly themes related to the curriculum, Christian and other major religious calendars, will be drawn up by an Assembly Co-ordinator, allowing for flexibility within each Year Group as appropriate.
- ❖ Assemblies will be led by a combination of members of staff including Heads of Year, Assistant Principals, Deputies and the Principal.
- ❖ Key Stage 3 will also attend an annual Carol Service
- ❖ There is a wealth of literary, musical and inspirational material available.
- ❖ All present at an Assembly will attempt to ensure that a 'special' atmosphere is created and sustained as students leave the Hall.

ICE Team

The College also hosts members of the Open Door ICE Team (Initiatives in Christian Education). This team is appointed and paid for by the churches in Exmouth, but work as volunteers within the college. Typical activities include:

- ❖ Taking assemblies
- ❖ Providing lesson input in RE
- ❖ Running lunchtime clubs
- ❖ Providing support by praying for the College.
- ❖ Organising visiting speakers from local churches

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy. No one will unlawfully be disadvantaged on the grounds of age, race or ethnicity, disability, gender and marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief under the operation of this policy.