

CANONS HIGH SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Background and Context

The 1998 Act states that all students in attendance at a maintained school, up to the age of eighteen, unless excused at the request of their parents, shall take part in an act of collective worship on each school day. Assemblies make a strong contribution to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Harrow is particularly rich in its breadth of religious traditions. Responses collected during the 2001 national census indicate that 91% of residents have a religion and the proportion of residents in the borough who are Hindu, Jewish and who follow other religions is the highest in England and Wales. The following religions are represented at Canons High School:

<i>Buddhist</i> 0.9%	<i>Jewish</i> 0.4%	<i>Other</i> 4.0%
<i>Christian</i> 25.9%	<i>Muslim</i> 33.9%	<i>None</i> 4.5%
<i>Hindu</i> 30.0%	<i>Sikh</i> 0.4%	

In light of our rich religious community, Canons High has a "determination", that is SACRE's response to our request for a variation in the requirement that collective worship is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".

Aims

At Canons High School collective worship aims to:

- Be respectful
- Be an educational experience
- Be relevant to student needs
- Encourage student participation
- Allow for spiritual reflection and response
- Foster a sense of belonging and community
- Reflect the values and aims of the school

Collective Worship

Collective worship is where students of different beliefs and attitudes assemble as a body to share values and experiences and have time for personal reflection. By focussing on spiritual, moral, and cultural qualities that a school considers important, collective worship and assemblies are a valuable extension of what goes on in the classroom and in the wider school.

Implementation

Practicalities relating to time and space do not allow us to have assemblies every day. Collective worship will therefore be carried out in the following way:

- Weekly morning assemblies taken either by the Head of Year, SLT member or guest speaker
- Daily during Form Time based upon Thought For The Week

Format

- In assemblies and Form Time the speaker will introduce an issue, theme or experience which will provoke evaluation, reflection and response eg through a reading, story, poem, newspaper article
- During Form Time students will be asked to reflect upon a 'Thought For The Week' which may be taken from the Thought For The Week cycle, based on a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community or a topical event. This can be led either by the teacher or a student.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship is stated in the Prospectus

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