

# Collective Worship Policy



**Reviewed: September 2023**  
**Next review: September 2024**

## The Christian Ethos of Immanuel College

Immanuel means 'God with us'. At Immanuel we believe that we are all God's children and that God has a plan for our lives. At Immanuel we endeavour to help students discover that plan.

Through perseverance we believe that our students' character will be developed in order for them to access a hopeful future.

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### Introduction

This policy has been prepared for and approved by the Governors. Diocesan advice and guidance has been closely adhered to. The Education reform Act of 1988 states that there must be a daily act of collective worship. Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Withdrawal will be agreed following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

### Vision

At the heart of our school since its foundation has been the vision that God is with us in everything we strive to do, hence our name, taken from Matthew 1:23 and our logo, the dove, inspired by portrayal of the presence of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, at the baptism of Jesus.

*"In Christian terms, spirituality refers to the way our fundamental values, lifestyles and spiritual practices reflect particular understandings of **God, human identity and the material world** as the context of human transformation". Philip Sheldrake*

At Immanuel students contemplate of the meaning of "God (the **upward**), human identity (the **inward**) and the material world" (the **outward**) and their relationship towards each other.

### Aims

We aim, through collective worship, to provide:

#### Upward

- Ask and answer questions of ultimate meaning and purpose.
- Understand prayer and worship, have opportunities to practise them.
- Understand Immanuel, 'God with us', is to be in relationship with the living God.

#### Inward

- Know gratitude.
- Explore faith and how it transforms lives.
- Appreciate the dignity of the human soul.
- Have an enquiring mind.

#### Outward

- Enjoy a sense of awe and wonder.

- Be an advocate for change and justice.
- Serve and promote the happiness of others.
- Appreciate beauty in art, nature and culture.
- Consider the role of humans as stewards of creation.

### **Procedure**

Our approach takes inspiration from the 'warm fires and open doors' metaphor where students are invited to approach the Christian message, inspired to move closer and included however near or far they wish to come. The provision includes:

- Daily acts of worship for all students through either year group or House assemblies, Chapel time or collective worship in tutor groups, led by staff.
- Student-led assemblies and acts of worship at major Christian festivals.
- Services of Holy Communion for students of faith or those exploring faith.
- Staff devotions at during Advent and at Easter.
- Worship at Holy Trinity, Idle for major festivals, led jointly by local clergy with College students and staff, enabling students to engage with their Anglican heritage.
- Assemblies led by visiting ministries and clergy at certain points in the Christian calendar.
- Friday prayer during which a member of the Chaplaincy team leads a short, topical thought before students go home for the weekend.

### **Leadership and management**

- The materials and CPD for the above provision is provided and supported by the Chaplaincy team, consisting of a Chaplain, Lay Chaplain, Collective Worship Leader, The Salvation Army Youth Worker, volunteer contributions from staff and the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Vision.
- These materials include relevant Bible passages, video clips, Chapel time slots for tutor groups, topical issues to discuss and activities relating our values of 'perseverance, character and hope'.
- Key staff such as form tutors and pastoral leads understand the imperative to appropriately deliver the collective worship programme, uphold the Christian vision of the school. Staff are offered one-to-one support and group training.
- When collective worship is due to commence, an appropriate slide is displayed and students are expected to be respectful of the content and of the desire of others to participate.
- Staff delivering collective worship are encouraged to bring their own thoughts and ideas in order to stimulate engagement and discussion, whilst remaining within the expectation to be following the guidance the Chaplaincy team provides and upholding the requirement to ensure that the act of worship is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".
- Students have opportunity to lead and join the Collective Worship Leader either to produce an act of worship for a week of assemblies on a theme of their choosing or can join the Christian Union and participate in their regular gatherings.
- Quality and assurance is provided by students and staff voice and collective worship 'learning walks' by Chaplaincy staff.