



Religious Education and Collective Worship

Ermysted's Grammar School

The Governing Body of Ermysted's Grammar School (the 'School') ratified this policy on 19 May 2022.

The School recognises its responsibility to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of its pupils and of society, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The set of shared values, which the School promotes through its curriculum, through its expectations governing the behaviour of pupils, and through the daily interactions between those associated with the school, make an important contribution to the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development and lie at the heart of Ermysted's educational and pastoral policy and practice.

Religious education and collective worship make an important, although not exclusive, contribution to this process. These activities offer explicit opportunities for pupils to consider the response of religion to fundamental questions about the purpose of being, morality and ethical standards, and to develop their own response to such matters.

Religious Education

The School has no affiliation with any particular religious denomination but seeks to promote an awareness and understanding of Christianity with other contemporary religious and philosophical beliefs to be found in Britain today.

Religious Education is offered throughout the school, from Year 7 to Year 13, and forms part of the School's core offer to pupils. The Religious Education curriculum for each year is described in detail on the School website. This curriculum is delivered through timetabled lessons in Years 7 to 11 and through drop-down days and the Lecture Programme in the Sixth Form.

Religious Studies is available at GCSE and A-Level as an optional subject.

Aims

- To encourage pupils to recognise a spiritual dimension in human experience and to raise questions about the meaning of life, considering religious answers and experiences.
- To consider a number of religious issues and help pupils reflect critically upon their own stance toward them.
- Enable pupils to appreciate the diversity and sometimes conflicting beliefs and values, which arise from religious involvement.
- Encourage respect for and empathy with the major religions and non-religious life stances.
- Help pupils reflect upon a range of life experiences and questions they raise.

Right of Withdrawal

- It is acknowledged that any parent or carer has a right of withdrawal of their child from Religious Education. To implement this right, a written application must be made to the Headteacher.

Collective Worship

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils to: consider spiritual and moral issues; explore their own beliefs; participate and respond, whether through active involvement or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; develop community spirit, promote shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Aims

- To provide a focal point in the life of the School for the transmission and development of all that the School stands for in terms of beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos.
- To provide an opportunity for the celebration and commemoration of significant events, religious and secular, collective and individual.
- To offer opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of life, reflecting the rich diversity of religious beliefs and concepts within our community.
- To provide a time where reflective skills and disciplines can be introduced and developed.
- To provide opportunities for the expression of response to a special moment e.g. by focusing on the importance of pupil's immediate experiences.
- To create an occasion for the whole community of staff and pupils to share and enjoy a common human experience.

Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and will be organised in a manner appropriate to the background, age and aptitudes of pupils. Pupil participation will be encouraged as indeed will the participation of staff and visitors.

Organisation

The School is able to provide opportunities for Acts of Worship to occur in a number of ways. Each week there are daily opportunities to gather as a group and reflect. Weekly themes provide a structure for form PSHCE and collective worship discussions. Unfortunately, it is not possible to house the whole school community in the main hall.

Main Assembly

The normal operating pattern is:

- Tuesday for Year 12 and Year 13 assemblies.
- Wednesday for Middle and Lower School assemblies.
- Other assemblies, for example, year group or House assemblies, may be arranged on the remaining days

In general the act of worship will be an integral part of the assembly.

Form Assemblies

- Held on the remaining days of the week.
- Pupils will spend time with their form tutor and follow a programme of activities where further reflection is encouraged.

Whole School Events

- Special services are held at key dates during the year (e.g. Remembrance, Christmas, Easter, etc.).
- The Founders' Day Service is held each December at Trinity Church, Skipton.

Right of Withdrawal

- It is acknowledged that any parent or carer has a right of withdrawal of their child from collective worship. To implement this right, a written request must be made to the Headteacher.
- Under Section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act, pupils over the age of compulsory schooling may withdraw themselves from collective worship.