



RE and COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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RE and Collective Worship Policy

It is a legal requirement that the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all students.. The regulations are set out in The Education Act 1944 as amended by The Education Reform Act 1988.

The Act states that collective worship organised by the school is to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. For those acts that are broadly Christian, the main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief.

The Education Reform Act 1988: Religious Education and Collective Worship (para. 34)

RATIONALE

Set in the broader context of the development of students to achieve their best academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually, our Collective worship at Middlewich High is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves, as individuals, and of others within the school and wider community
- Grow in an ethos of mutual respect and acceptance
- Reflect and think deeply on important issues we face as a community and as individuals
- Deepen their sense of wonder of the world in which we live
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and difference
- Develop a responsible and safe attitude

PRACTICE

At Middlewich High School, we experience our collective worship through Assemblies, iValue sessions, RE lessons and Tutor time, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place daily and within a broad educational framework.

Members of the Senior Leadership team, Heads of Year, and other senior staff lead assemblies in accordance with the collective worship theme of the week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leading collective worship at certain times of the year such as during our Remembrance Service with local veterans and religious leaders; at our Carol Service held in our local Church or at the end of year Celebrations of Achievement, where students display their musical talents. Examples of assembly themes for collective worship are: Role Models and Aspirations; Acts of Kindness and Celebrating the values and worth of the school community.

RE CURRICULUM

Fundamental to our schools' values and curriculum aims is the principle of preparing students for their next steps and enriching their lives with the knowledge and understanding needed to have a successful future. Religious Education at Middlewich High School seeks to:

1. Develop awareness of the fundamental questions of life, and how religious and non-religious teachings can relate to them.
2. Equip students to respond to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religious and non-religious groups, considering and explaining what might be learned from the religions they study in the light of their own beliefs and experiences.
3. Lead students to reflect on their own beliefs, values, perceptions and experiences in the light of their study of religion and non-religious thinking.

4. Develop positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs that are different from their own.
5. Develop knowledge and tolerance of religions, embracing British values.

WITHDRAWAL

All families have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from assemblies or RE lessons, section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998). We at Middlewich High School recognise said right; it must be done as a formal request in writing to the headteacher. 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 or RE lessons to avoid students feeling excluded.