



# Christ's College Guildford

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## Christ's College

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## **Policy Statement**

Christ's College is proud of its heritage as a Church of England and ecumenical partnership Academy as part of the Good Shepherd Trust Academy in which worship is a central part of the school day. We want everyone at the College to see Acts of Worship as an opportunity to reflect collectively and develop spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. We value this time in the school day for the space it gives to students to explore their beliefs in traditional religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

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". At Christ's College our acts of worship are broadly Christian in nature and focus on the heart of Christian belief.

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

## **Aims**

As a Church School, Christ's College aims to give students an experience of what it is like to live and work in a community inspired by the Christian faith. The main focus of acts of worship within the College is the Christian faith, but respect is shown to all others whose beliefs may be different. The College seeks to nourish those of the Christian faith and welcome students of all faiths and those of no faith. We aim to be a place where all students grow in their belief and also develop a commitment to the service of the community of which they are part.

Collective worship is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for students to:

- Explore their own beliefs and those of others within the school and wider community
- Gain, and grow in, understanding of the feelings and beliefs of others
- Deepen their sense of wonder of the world in which we live
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and difference
- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural side of the College
- Have opportunities to collectively express and reaffirm the values of the school community
- Reflect and respond to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements and occasions of significance within the school, local, national and international community
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others as well as a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Praise, thank and reach out to God
- Have opportunities to experience stillness and quiet
- Have the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Have the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and worship
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Build a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

## **Practice**

Christian worship is a multi-layered experience and can include the following complementary dimensions –

- Responding to God out of reverential fear, awe and wonder, personal conviction, respect and love;
- Service to others;
- Individual and corporate worship;
- Creative expression and rational debate;
- Responding to the presence of God.

The College has an Anglican foundation, but as an ecumenical partnership it draws on the experiences and traditions of all Christian denominations represented in the College. We wish to adopt the fundamental aims:

- To nourish those of the faith;
- To challenge those of no faith;
- To respect those of other faiths.

## **Organisation**

Formal acts of worship will take place as follows:

Monday:	Whole College Assembly
Tuesday:	Tutor Programme
Wednesday:	Tutor Programme
Thursday:	Year 8 Assembly and Year 10 Assembly
Friday:	Year 7 Assembly, Year 9 Assembly and Year 11 Assembly

On days when students do not attend a formal assembly, a reflection time will be held in Tutor Groups. Part of the Tutor Programme includes weekly RSHE using Ten Resources from the Catholic Education Service. Youth Workers from local churches also help deliver material specifically written for Christ's College. The themes cover a variety of topics that are either based on the Bible or Fundamental British Values.

## **Church Visits and other formal occasions**

Each year group has a Retreat Day which is specifically designed for them and focusses on the spiritual needs and development of that year group. This includes visiting local churches and the Wintershall Estate, experiencing a range of input which enables each student to reflect personally and respond creatively to their faith. The input includes drama, music, art, prayer stations, pilgrimage and stillness and silence.

Each year group visits a local church once a year to have an Act of Worship in the local community. This is led by a local vicar in collaboration with the College's Chaplaincy team.

Each Christmas the College has a Carol Service in a local Church or Cathedral. This is open to the wider College community. This service consists of traditional carols and contributions from the students which include dance, readings and drama.

At Easter, the Passion is creatively presented to each year group by the Chaplaincy and Performing Arts department. Different aspects of the Passion of Christ are explored each year.

In the summer there is a Faith Week in which all students have an opportunity to hear from and engage with Christians from all walks of life, together with creative Prayer Stations through Prayer Spaces in School.

At the end of the year there is a Leavers' Service at Guildford Cathedral in which Year 11 celebrates and recognises the importance of their individual and corporate experience at Christ's College. It is an opportunity to give thanks to God for what has passed and to commit the future and one another into God's hands.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The College Chaplaincy team is led by the Chaplain and consists of an ecumenical group of Youth Workers from local churches.

The Chaplain, together with CLT, select one of Christ's College's Core Values as the main theme for each week and this is supported by a Bible passage and prayer, which builds on the theme. This is linked to the liturgical calendar where key seasons are celebrated and observed. Students lead Acts of Worship in year group assemblies based on these themes each week. The theme, bible passage and prayer form the foundation of the weekly staff briefing where the Chaplain leads a brief reflection for staff each Monday morning.

The Principal has the responsibility of ensuring that Acts of Collective Worship are effective, fit for purpose and conducted according to school policy. It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the theme of the week. However, within the legal framework and theme suggestions, staff conducting collective worship are free to employ whatever format that is seen as appropriate. The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings and prayers. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if students are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human and spiritual issues.

It is the responsibility of the form tutor to accompany and remain with the tutor group throughout collective worship to assist with supervision. In the event of collective worship over-running into lesson time, which should not be a frequent occurrence, staff may leave whilst proceedings continue.

When there are guest speakers as part of collective worship they are listened to and treated with respect as they are invited to build upon the core values and Christian vision of Christ's College.