

## **Kings International College for Business & the Arts**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Context**

The College believes that the act of collective worship supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of College life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole student; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time for the opportunity it gives students to develop a reflective approach to life and to develop the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or in any other appropriate manner. Collective worship is a time when groups within the College meet together in order to consider and reflect common concerns, issues and interests. It offers students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils."

The College acknowledges the legal requirements for collective worship set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act, whilst recognising the practical difficulties of assembling students daily. The College accepts the desirability of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. The College seeks to do its best to keep to the spirit of this legislation in seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

#### **Our aims**

- To provide assemblies that mainly reflect the broad traditions of Christian beliefs but are not distinctive of any one denomination
- To ensure that our assemblies are activities to which all can contribute and from which all can benefit, irrespective of personal religious commitment

#### **The purposes of collective worship at Kings International College**

- To create an atmosphere in which those who worship can do so in their own chosen way
- To encourage a reflective and meaningful response to life
- To create and nurture a sense of belonging
- To affirm and celebrate the values and ideals the College cares about
- To enrich the lives of students by creating opportunities to learn about the beliefs and practices of others
- To enable students to explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- To draw upon the wealth of Christian and other religious beliefs in an open and exploratory way
- To create an opportunity to share individual experiences about living in and responding to a multicultural world
- To encourage students to become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the College and wider community
- To develop an understanding of the experiences and feelings of other people from a variety of backgrounds and beliefs
- To acknowledge and celebrate diversity

- To develop a community spirit

**Responsible for policy development:** Head of College

**Responsible for implementation:** Senior Leadership Team

### **Practice**

We combine our acts of worship within assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Each year group has two assemblies each week, each assembly taking fifteen minutes. One of these assemblies is led by a member of SLT each week. The other assembly is taken by the relevant Performance Manager. Occasional visitors will also be involved in leading acts of worship throughout the year. Assemblies follow a weekly theme, which includes religious festivals, national or international events and a range of reflective themes.

In addition, form tutors lead tutor groups through a time of reflection, at the beginning of morning registration. This reflection will be based on the 'theme of the week'. Students are encouraged to participate in assemblies.

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be used in acts of worship. Leaders will choose a style/method and resources appropriate to the content, the age and background of the students. This might include:-

- Sacred & secular reading/stories
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dance/drama
- Students' contributions
- Prayer/meditation/songs/music
- Artefacts/natural objects
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

There will be a clear and defined break between the act of worship and other aspects of assembly time e.g. announcements.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The Head of College is responsible (under the school standards and framework act 1998) for arranging collective worship after consulting the governing body.
- The Vice Principal is responsible for planning the calendar of themes for assemblies
- The relevant member of SLT is responsible for creating a series of thoughts for the day each week for form tutors to deliver
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should consult the Head of College. The College will provide supervision for students withdrawn from collective worship.
- All teachers, including the Head of College, have the right of withdrawal from the act of worship. However, the right to withdrawal does not extend to other aspects of the assembly time.