



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This Policy was originally created in January 2009 and this issue was released in:	January 2009
It was ratified by the Board of Directors on :	23 March 2009
This policy will be reviewed in:	Spring Term 2012
This policy will be reviewed by:	Curriculum, Student Affairs and Parental Engagement Committee

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At The Gateway Academy Religious Education follows the locally agreed syllabus and is taught as part of Citizenship which is a core subject for every student. The aim of the Religious Education element of the Citizenship course is to offer students the opportunity to develop as informed, confident, caring, tolerant and fulfilled citizens.

PRINCIPLES

Every student will:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain and the impact they have on our local community and on our society today;
- Develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice;
- Grow in their spiritual development;
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery;
- Develop skills and attitudes which support students' personal, social, moral and cultural development;
- Explore questions of meaning and consideration of how the world's religions have responded to them;
- Have opportunities to explore their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the school community.

In order that the Religious Education element of Citizenship is lively and active, it is taught using a variety of teaching methods including discussion, group work, the use of artefacts, the development of thinking skills, pictures, stories and the use of periods of quiet reflection. Where possible, students have opportunities to encounter local faith communities either through visits or through visiting speakers.

Students are assessed in Citizenship each half term, in line with the Humanities Faculty policy.

At The Gateway Academy we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child's Religious Education on the ground of conscience. Any parent considering this is asked to contact the Principal.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK (incorporating a daily act of collective worship)

Thought for the Week will provide opportunities for students to consider, debate and reflect upon spiritual, cultural, social, political and moral issues. An act of collective worship / reflection will take place each day at The Gateway Academy during the daily tutor period or during the weekly assembly and will be incorporated within the Thought for the Week activities. The syllabus and corresponding activities for Thought for the Week will endeavour to address the following principles:

- Thought for the Week should be appropriate for all pupils whatever their religious beliefs or commitments;
- Thought for the Week should be used to celebrate and affirm difference and diversity;
- Thought for the Week should be used to develop a sense of community, promoting a common ethos, shared values, tolerance and understanding;
- Thought for the Week should promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and knowledge;
- Collective worship should enable students to understand their thoughts and feelings and to connect with their spiritual self;
- Collective worship should be of high quality, challenging pupils and enriching their experience and developing enquiring minds and ability to articulate views;
- Some acts of collective worship should contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam.

Arrangements for Assemblies and Other Opportunities for Collective Worship

Full School Assemblies

A full school assembly takes place each term and is held in the Sports Hall. The assembly is conducted by the Principal, and all staff and students are required to attend. The assembly will provide opportunities to re-affirm the school's values and to celebrate success.

College Assemblies

Each College has a scheduled weekly assembly in the main hall :

Red College	-	12.45pm	Monday
Yellow College	-	12.45pm	Tuesday
Green College	-	12.45pm	Wednesday
Blue College	-	12.45pm	Thursday

The assembly schedule is co-ordinated by the Heads of College who compile a programme of themes which include Thought for the Week and some of which are related to the liturgical calendars of the main religions. Tutors and students will often lead assemblies and guest speakers are regularly invited. College assemblies play a major role in fostering a sense of belonging and school identity. All assemblies will include an act of collective worship contributing to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

These assemblies provide opportunities for collective worship through:-

- Readings
- Poetry
- Drama
- Music
- Prayer
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Outside Speakers
- Personal anecdote
- Stories
- Artefacts

Tutor Period

For four days of the week, students are grouped together as members of a mixed-age tutor group under the guidance of a College Tutor. The Tutor Period Programme and the daily routine provide opportunities for students to:-

- express and explore their views openly and honestly
- develop their own personal values
- ask questions about meaning and purpose
- display a capacity for reflection, curiosity and a sense of awe and wonder
- value imagination, inspiration and contemplation
- celebrate achievement
- respect others
- consider moral and ethical issues
- respond to material presented through discussion, spoken comments, writing or drawing
- empathise with others
- explore moral issues.

The Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed by the Curriculum, Student Affairs and Parental Engagement Committee to ensure it meets the needs of the students and the legal requirements under the 1988 Education Act.