

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Status	NON-STATUTORY
Last reviewed	Summer 2025
Responsible Person	Principal
Date of next review	Summer 2028

Cowley International College Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Cowley International College pays due regard to statutory requirements.

The Collective Worship Policy is in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the college as expressed in the college prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole college, or groups within the college meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the College:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Cowley and it is our aim that it is a time when the college community can:

- share common aims and values;
- celebrate achievement and special times;
- explore together the world in which we live;
- develop a community spirit.

For the students:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- develop their own spirituality;
- reinforce positive attitudes;
- participate and respond;
- reflect on what it means to be human.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Cowley, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of students by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with college policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Leadership Management of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership, Year and House teams undertake the role of organising and managing acts of Collective Worship. Annually the Senior Leadership team along with recognized staff evaluate Collective Worship.

The Principal will be responsible that the national statutory requirements on Collective Worship for all state schools are fulfilled. DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased (cf Education Reform Act 1988).

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in Cowley International Hall, Cowley Hall, on the Atrium Steps or in one of the classrooms. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students. Each year group will have a minimum of two assemblies per week and will collect together in teams on the other days completing relevant tasks

together, at all times of worship honouring excellence and exploring and sharing things of value and worth.

A theme for each week is published in the Staff Handbook but staff and students are encouraged to develop ideas for worship which are relevant and current. Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on the purpose of students' time together.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used such as prayer, drama, stories, video clips, guest speakers, readings and music. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the students.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a purposeful nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding or following the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made, e.g. a change of personnel, music, college prayer.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal. Any student who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the college staff.