



Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Dr Zakia Maqbool **Date:** September 2025

Next review due by: September 2027

PRINCIPLES:

BIGS believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Our school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship are mainly of a broadly Muslim Character for the majority of the time.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'nominally' Muslim, but we do not reject students from other faiths. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children not from a Muslim background. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

AIMS:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge and be aware of diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

PRACTICE:

At BIGS we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There is one assembly each week for every pupil in the school. In addition, form tutors lead tutor groups through Quranic readings and reflections during tutor time on the remaining mornings per week.

The Head teacher or other senior staff lead the whole school worship each week, whilst Form Tutors may choose to lead on a certain specific topic. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at form time and students are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up.

Please see additional guidance on assemblies in Appendix 1

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- The headteacher is also responsible for planning the calendar of themes and the personal development plan on a termly basis. This is discussed with other members of staff, which also provides an opportunity for Heads of Year to give feedback from Year Teams about assemblies.
- All Form Tutors follow 'guidelines to form time' in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Head teacher.
- Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher.

APPENDIX 1

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND CONDUCTING ASSEMBLIES

In planning our assemblies, we choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Prayer/meditation/songs/nasheeds
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

PRAYER/REFLECTION

We feel that, prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Various forms of introduction to our prayers can be used to distance children, whilst giving them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well-known prayer...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.