



WORSHIP POLICY

**COVERING BOTH SCHOOLS
INCLUDING EYFS AND BOARDING**

Committee normally reviewing:	Leadership Teams
Date formally approved by the Governors :	Spring Term 2022
Date policy became effective :	November 2010

Period of Review:	3 Yearly
Next Review Date :	Spring Term 2025

Person responsible for implementation and monitoring :	The Chaplain The Heads
Other relevant policies :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy ● Round Square Exchanges Policy ● Bereavement Policy ● Health Education Policy ● Equality Policy ● Learning and Teaching Policy ● Curriculum Policy ● Promoting the Welfare of Boarders Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preventing Radicalisation Policy ● Pastoral Care Policy (Senior) ● Pastoral Care Plan including the Anti-bullying Policy and the Behaviour and Discipline Policy (Prep) ● PSHE Policy ● Safeguarding (Child Protection and Staff Behaviour) Policy

The following Policy encompasses the Aims and Ethos of the Preparatory School and the Senior School

[Aims and Ethos](#)

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Felsted is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all pupils and a 'culture of vigilance' to safeguard and protect all in its care, and to all aspects of its 'Safeguarding (Child Protection and Staff Behaviour) Policy'.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The aims of the School and the principles of excellent pastoral care will be applied to all children irrespective of their race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy or maternity; equally these characteristics will be recognised and respected, and the School

FELSTED WORSHIP POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Felsted has a Christian (Church of England) ethos and foundation, encouraging and nurturing the development of individual personal faith, beliefs and values, consistent with the school's Christian ethos.

As a Church of England School, collective worship at Felsted is undertaken and interpreted within this context. We are mindful that approximately one fifth of the student body in the Senior School is from other nationalities around the world, and pupils and staff may have different religious beliefs.

Our ethos helps to sustain our pastoral focus and ensure that the 'golden thread' of our heritage, expressed in our motto 'Garde Ta Foy' is active throughout school life. We treasure our Christian Foundation, e.g. the Commencement Service, the Founder's & Benefactor's Service and Speech Day Service. Everyone is welcome at Felsted and we want to ensure that there is provision for everyone at the school. We want to promote a culture of enquiry, investigation, respect and openness. We do not want anyone to be put off or made to feel left out. Our ethos means that it is important to us that everyone is valued and feels valued.

2. THE NATURE AND MEANING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- a) The act of collective worship shall be held regularly in the School Chapel where possible
- b) Collective worship should 'in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary School activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power' (DFE Circular 1/94)
- c) The majority of acts of worship in any one term should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (DFE Circular 1/94). The Christian Ethos of the school supports pupils, growing up in a multicultural society, to be reflective, and to develop spiritual and ethical awareness and sensitivity to their own beliefs and to those of others.
- d) The act of worship should:
 - respect the integrity and dignity of pupils and staff, and be appropriate to the needs and interests of the pupils
 - be clearly distinguished from the everyday activity of the school
 - be inclusive so that everyone can both contribute to it and gain from it and participate in it, if this is appropriate
 - offer the time for reverence, reflection, contemplation and prayer
 - provide a context to consider moral, ethical, social and cultural issues

- help children develop thoughtful and extended responses to key questions
 - enable children to explore a variety of forms of worship
 - illuminate, celebrate and commemorate what has meaning, value and purpose for individuals, the school and the wider community
 - celebrate difference and diversity
 - take very different forms including song, prayers, talks, readings, sketches, games, mime and any other ideas and provide opportunities for pupils, members of staff and parents to participate
 - be held in chapel as far as is possible
- e) The act of collective worship will also be held
- at periodic Monday services of Morning or Evening Prayer
 - periodic Evensong services
 - and on periodic Sundays during term throughout the year
 - as well as at other special occasions including major services in the Christian calendar which fall in term time, Founder's Day, annual Confirmation Services and on Speech Day, at memorial services, and on other occasions
- f) At a number of special services during the year, pupils, staff and parents are able to take Communion

3. THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Parents, guardians and pupils have the right to withdraw from collective worship in accordance with their conscience. Pupils will be supported by the Chaplain, parents and House/Phase Staff so that they may spend time in reflection and contemplation in a way that authentically contributes to spiritual development, or be supported in worship of an alternative faith or religion during this time, as appropriate

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The School Council, Prefects, Chapel Prefect and Chaplain monitor and evaluate in various ways how the pupils feel about chapel at least once per year. Staff and interested parties are invited to contribute in a variety of ways including through their views.

A number of changes have occurred as a result of this, such as the further development of student-led services by House or on whole school issues (such as the School Charity Partners and a growing awareness of global issues e.g. internationalism); the use of a large screen, the introduction of more members of Common Room leading services, and The Chapel Choir singing as the Chapel Choir including at Evensong