



WORSHIP POLICY

SENIOR SCHOOL

Governors' Committee normally reviewing:	Academic Committee
Date formally approved by the Governors :	March 2016
Date policy became effective :	November 2010

Period of Review:	3 Yearly
Next Review Date :	March 2019

Person responsible for implementation and monitoring :	The Chaplain The Headmaster
Other relevant policies :	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy Personal and Citizenship Education Policy Round Square Exchanges Policy Bereavement Policy Death of a Child Policy Healthy School Policy Equal Opportunities Policy, Learning and Teaching Policy Child Protection Policy Curriculum Policy

The following policy covers the aims and ethos of the Senior School

[Aims of the School](#) Click here

[Ethos of the School](#) Click here

Mr Chris Townsend
Head, Senior School

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 and Promoting the Welfare of Pupils Policy'.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The aims of the School and the principles of excellent pastoral care will be applied to all children irrespective of differences in ethnic background, culture, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender and disabilities, so long as in the last matter the student is able to involve himself or herself in the activity concerned; equally these differences will be recognised and respected, and the School will aim to provide a positive culture of tolerance, equality and mutual respect

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 and faiths from around the world.

2. THE NATURE AND MEANING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- a) The act of collective worship shall be held twice a week 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 must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (DFE Circular 1/94)
- 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 evening services
 - 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 and guardians have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

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 Magic Bus Charity, the Corps of Drums at the British Military Tournament, awareness of major disasters such as the tsunami in Japan in 2011); 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.

Chaplain

Mr Chris Townsend
Headmaster