

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Background

1. Larkmead school vision:
“...equipped to succeed, making a real and positive difference in a demanding and changing world”.
2. Legal requirement for collective worship can be found at:
<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/collectiveworship/>
3. We wish to approach this in a way that meets educational needs, is of high quality, and is consistent with Larkmead’s vision and ethos. Thus the aim is to move towards the legal requirement in a way that we would consider appropriate, even if there were no legal requirement

Proposed Approach

4. Collective worship is arranged by the Headteacher, having consulted the Governing Body.
5. Parents will be informed of the right to withdraw their children.
6. There will be at least one opportunity for collective worship per term (at least 6/ year).
7. These may be provided from the perspective of any of the major faith worldviews or of none, broadly reflective of the balance of worldviews locally and in the UK.
8. These may be incorporated as part of the whole school assemblies or by other means.
9. Approaches building on Larkmead’s specialism in Visual and Performing Arts will be encouraged.
10. They may be developed in school or involve external faith or non-faith communities. Where external bodies are involved, they will be invited to build an activity through prior contact with the school, possibly involving prior preparation with students.
11. Collective worship will give opportunities for:
 - Celebration (they may link to major festivals such as Easter)
 - Pause for reflection
 - Community
 - Acknowledging the worth of the approach of different worldviews.

12. Collective worship will be characterised by:

- Mutual respect
- First hand contact with those of faith or non-faith communities
- An opportunity for engagement

but will not pre-suppose or require agreement with the worldview.

Review

13. This approach was agreed by the Governing Body in November 2013 and will be reviewed in November 2016.