

# **SIR GRAHAM BALFOUR MAT**



## **ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

## SIR GRAHAM BALFOUR MAT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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### CHANGE CONTROL

Date	Issue	Details of change
03/04/17	0.a	Initial Draft
30/06/2017	0.b	Updated following review by Trustees
19/07/2017	1.0	Updated following approval at Board Meeting 18/07/2017
21/06/2021	1.a	Minor changes following review
30/06/2021	2.0	Updated following approval at Board Meeting 30/06/2021

<b>Next Review</b>	June 2025
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### AUTHORISATION

Approved at Board Meeting on 30/06/2021

Signed:



30-6-21

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**Chair of Trust Board**

**Date**

## Introduction

Under the Education Act of 1996 all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils. In May 2013, the Department for Education published information for academies and free schools about providing collective worship stating that an academies funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools and that each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to academies with and without religious designation.

### 1. Aims

- 1.1 This policy sets out the framework within which Assemblies and Collective Worship at schools in the Sir Graham Balfour Multi Academy Trust (SGBMAT) will take place.
- 1.2 Assemblies and Collective Worship at schools in the SGBMAT recognises the possible diversity of faith and commitment but should lead to a greater awareness in each school of the SGBMAT's aims; of each individual school in the SGBMAT's values and ethos; student reflection on their own beliefs and values; students developing a deeper awareness of the purpose of life; students developing a sense of awe and wonder about the world; students given opportunities to question and consider moral issues and result in a deepening of the quality of school life.
- 1.3 The key elements of Assemblies and Collective Worship at each school in the SGBMAT should uphold the specific religious designation of each school and reflect the school's aims and ethos.
- 1.4 In schools in the SGBMAT without a specific religious designation Assemblies and Collective Worship should:
  - be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". This need not contain only Christian material provided that, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character, but the majority of acts of worship must be so. Collective worship is interpreted as broadly meaning a celebration of that which is worthy.

In schools in the SGBMAT designated as having a religious character, collective worship will follow the faith of the school. It will also:

- Promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of students at schools in the SGBMAT and in society.
- Promote the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) of students at schools in the SGBMAT.

- Promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
  - To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- 1.5 At schools in the SGBMAT designated as having a specific religious character, collective worship will follow the faith of the school as well as:
- Promote the SMSC development of students at schools in the SGBMAT and in society.
  - Promote the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) of students at schools in the SGBMAT.
  - Promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
  - To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## 2. Key Elements

At Sir Graham Balfour School, the key elements of Assemblies and Collective Worship are as follows:

- 2.1 The relevant Head of Year will research and present an annual list of assembly themes, some of a broadly Christian nature, some dealing with other faiths (where information is available), and some covering PSHE topics which are not dealt with via the curriculum. There will be reference to the School's Values.
- 2.2 The relevant Head of Year will invite outside speakers (including Church leaders) to lead collective worship at times.
- 2.3 All Assemblies will support one or more of the aims outlined in section 1 and will be conducted in an atmosphere that reflects the values of the school.
- 2.4 The Deputy Head i/c of the Personal Development and Welfare Team will ensure there is a 'thought for the day' included in the Staff/Student bulletin and on the Screen in the School Reception.
- 2.5 Members of Leadership Group and Heads of Year will ensure that Year and House assemblies are conducted in an appropriately calm, positive and respectful manner.

- 2.6 During the remaining days left in the week Form Groups will follow a House Time programme which incorporates elements of Collective Worship, PSHE and School's Values as well as considering the emotional wellbeing of students.
- 2.7 Parents' rights to withdraw their children from collective worship are respected and work will be set for children who are not allowed to attend.
- 2.8 A prayer room is allocated to students who wish to worship at other times during the day.
- 2.9 The Religious Education) curriculum teaches respect for and understanding of different faiths and beliefs.
- 2.10 Collective worship can take place within the classroom or Form group as well as in assemblies.

### **3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 3.1 The SGBMAT Board will formally review this policy every 4 years or more frequently if circumstances or legislation suggest it is appropriate.