



Hayesfield Girls' School

Achieving Ambitions

Collective Worship and Religious Studies Policies

Collective Worship

In accordance with the 1988 Act, arrangements will be made for all students (11-18) to take part in daily collective worship. Students will meet together either in combined year groups, or as a year, or as a form.

Collective Worship will mean that there is scope for a variety of responses by those present. This distinguishes it from corporate worship as in a church service. We shall recognise, affirm and celebrate realities and values, which are held to be important to our community. Within each school term, the majority of acts of collective worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. The worship will not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination and does not have to contain only Christian material.

The school will have a programme for the year based on a variety of themes to help each member of the community to focus on matters of great worth which are worthy of preservation and promotion. We still also observe the major Christian Festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Staff, students, parents, Governors and members of the community outside school will be encouraged to volunteer contributions in accordance with the school policy and the requirements of legislation.

We hope that the interpretation of collective worship allowed to us within the 1988 Act will mean that all members of the school community feel able to participate. However, the right exists for parents, on behalf of their daughters, to inform the Headteacher in writing that they wish to withdraw from collective worship.

Religious Studies

The Religious Studies (RS) Department have considered and agreed to adopt the Bath & North East Somerset agreed syllabus statement on 'Aims' as follows:-

The principal aim should be to enable students to understand the nature of religion and what it would mean to take a religion seriously. This involves an understanding of explicit religious beliefs and practices, and implicit questions of meaning and value. As a distinctive area of study, Religious Studies has its own place within the curriculum: it also contributes, with other subjects, to the personal, moral and social education of students.

Understanding the nature of religion requires additional aims. A variety of approaches and skills are needed to enable investigation, description and evaluation of religious responses to human experience.

The fulfilment of these aims requires the study of founders and followers of religious movements, religious language and ideas, sacred books and institutions, religious beliefs and practices. The religious traditions of this country make it appropriate that much of the teaching material should be drawn from Christianity, but in today's world, Religious Studies also requires a wider range of material. The pursuit of these aims will also help students to identify for themselves the fundamental questions of human existence, so that they may

continue to reflect upon them and arrive at the decisions life calls for in a responsible way. It should not be the intention of those engaged in Religious Studies in schools to require a particular religious commitment of students. Parents may request, in writing, that their daughters are withdrawn from religious studies. These students would be expected to occupy the time with private study.