Collective Worship Policy

Last Review: June 2023
Next Review: July 2026, extended until the end of the Autumn Term 2026/7
Committee: Ethos

Aims and Objectives
At JCoSS we always seek to reflect in our worship the Jewish Ethos of the school and its care for all who work here. Students are helped to understand the meaning of Jewish worship.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- enable students and staff of all faiths and none to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Jewish tradition.
- use celebration, silence, mindfulness, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address spirituality
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Jewish pluralist framework by learning more about the Jewish faith and by encountering God through worship.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised be feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, and foster the sense of being part of a wider community though the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary, we aim to:

- provide a variety of opportunities for students who wish to, to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for students to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the students;
- give time for silent reflection mindfulness, and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give students the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that students will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

How is collective worship organised at JCoSS?

Assemblies
Assemblies include a moment of spiritual reflection, giving students an opportunity to reflect on an important issue of the day. This might take the form of a prayer, poem or moments silence for students to think about what they have heard.

The Director of Jewish Learning and the Director of Jewish Life , support staff with the preparation and selection of relevant material if required.

Form Time: Collective Worship:
On Monday and Thursday afternoons the whole school community listens to JCast – a podcast from a member of staff or a student on a wide range of topics. This is then followed by a moment for reflection before the start of the school day.

The right of withdrawal
The parents' have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. This does not mean that the students will be in any way exempt from the Jewish ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children. Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child from collective worship must make an appointment to see the Head Teacher and the Director of Jewish Learning or Director of Jewish Life.

Conclusion
At JCoSS, collective worship is valued and efforts are made to ensure that students and staff take part in high quality activities.