

Collective Worship Policy

Berkhamsted Prep and Pre-Prep
Berkhamsted Senior Schools & Sixth
Heatherton

Revision and Terminology: Please refer to the School's Policies Policy.

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Linked Policies:	Admissions

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Scope of this policy

1 Ethos

- 1.1 Berkhamsted School was instituted as, and remains, a Church of England Foundation with a Christian ethos. We enable children to develop a sound knowledge of Christianity and an appreciation of other world religions. To this end, the School's Collective Worship shall be mainly or largely Christian, and mainly or largely within the Anglican tradition.
- 1.2 Attendance at Collective Worship is fundamental to our Christian ethos and to our sense of community.
- 1.3 Religious Education plays an important part in a child's understanding of the world in which they live. We believe that all children and staff have the right to their own religious beliefs (or none) and these should be respected and valued. All children will be provided with the opportunity to develop their understanding of other cultures and beliefs and how these beliefs affect the way in which people live their lives.

2 Aims

- 2.1 To promote the Christian ethos of the School.
- 2.2 To foster religious respect and tolerance in our pupils towards those of any faith and none.
- 2.3 To ensure that the School does not violate the religious integrity of pupils of other faiths, and of no faith.

3 Policy statement

- 3.1 We expect all of our pupils to **attend** School Chapel, School church services and School Assemblies, which are fundamental to our Christian ethos.
- 3.2 A exception will **only** be made where Muslim pupils in the Sixth Form wish to attend Friday prayers in the Prayer Room(s) within the School with the prior agreement of the Head of Sixth. They may attend that event in place of Chapel; they must attend either Friday prayers in the Prayer Room or equivalent designated space, or Chapel.
- 3.3 All pupils are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner in assembly, Chapel and at other religious services.
- 3.4 Parents do **not** have the right to withdraw their child/ren from **attending** collective worship and Sixth Form pupils may not withdraw themselves, except in accordance with 3.2 above.
- 3.5 No pupil shall be forced to **participate in** any act of religious worship when in attendance.
- 3.6 Pupils and Parents may request that they / their child/ren sit separately in an assembly, chapel or church service to make clear that they are in attendance in the capacity of an observer, rather than as a worshipper. Requests need to be made in writing to the Chaplain.

- 3.7 We expect all of our pupils to **participate in** Religious Studies lessons (from Statutory Age to the end of Key Stage 3) which are fundamental to our Christian ethos.
- 3.8 Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/ren from Religious Studies lessons.

4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 4.1 The School will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the School.