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Collective Worship and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Collective Worship offers a range of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Many of these opportunities are already being offered in the life of the school.

Spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which pupils acquire valuable insights into themselves and others, as well as into the world around them. It is characterised by reflection, the giving of meaning to experience, and exploring a non-material dimension to life. 'Spiritual' is not the same as 'religious'. All areas of the curriculum contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' spiritual development by:

- focusing on significant experiences
- exploring meanings of experience
- providing insights into the values and beliefs of others
- offering insights into religious beliefs and practices
- developing a sense of awe and wonder
- developing a sense of the mysteries of life
- developing a sense of their position within the 'universal' picture
- exploring religious and personal responses to the mysteries of life
- encouraging personal reflection
- encouraging the search for meaning in life
- fostering the ability to 'step back from everyday life and consider things more deeply'
- developing a sense of the meaning and purpose of worship.

Moral development is concerned with the pupils ability to make judgements about how to behave and act, and the reasons for such behaviour. It requires knowledge and understanding and includes questions of intention, motive and attitude.

It seeks to build a framework of values, which regulate personal behaviour through principles rather than through fear of punishment or reward. Pupils should learn to be able to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong in different contexts, and take into account their own and other people's viewpoints.

Collective Worship contributes to moral development by:

- promoting a sense of shared standards and values
- developing an awareness of the need for shared values
- exploring moral issues
- fostering reflection on values
- exploring how religions and other belief systems promote moral ideas
- developing awareness of the needs and concerns of others
- encouraging seeing things from other people's point of view
- fostering a high regard for ideas such as truth, honesty, fairness and justice
- fostering rationality
- fostering autonomy in moral decision-making.

Social development encourages pupils to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community, and develop an understanding of citizenship. It involves progressive growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects and community life as a citizen, parent, or worker.

Collective Worship contributes to social development by:

- providing shared experiences

- exploring and reflecting on shared experiences
- fostering a sense of community
- providing opportunities for communal celebration
- fostering good social behaviour
- providing opportunities to perform before others
- fostering a sense of the value of the community and the individuals within it
- fostering tolerance and respect for others, their beliefs, practices and values.

Cultural development teaches pupils to appreciate their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures. It seeks to increase pupils' understanding of those beliefs, values, attitudes, customs, knowledge and skills which, taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups. It also involves a variety of aesthetic appreciation and the opportunity for pupils to develop and strengthen their existing cultural interests.

Collective Worship contributes to cultural development by:

- exploring a variety of cultural traditions and practices
- promoting an appreciation of cultural diversity
- fostering an appreciation of the worth of cultural achievements
- including elements from a variety of cultures and backgrounds
- valuing and affirming the pupils' own cultural interests.

Such opportunities are structured within a programme of Collective Worship and staff are encouraged to share their own interests and insights with students. Many departments and faculties contribute to the programme. Visitors are welcomed from within local religious communities and representative charities.