



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COLLECTIVE WORKSHOP POLICY

Malvern College is registered as a school of Religious Character.

The College is a Christian foundation and the Chapel plays an important part in the life of the College. The founders of the College envisaged a school with a Christian focus, thus the College Chapel was established in the Anglican tradition. The Diocesan Bishop is President of the College. The Services are organised by the Chaplain.

All pupils in the Foundation Year and Remove receive Ethics and Religious Education. There is a full GCSE programme and the RS A level is offered in the Sixth Form. Those doing the IB must all follow the Theory of Knowledge component which has important spiritual and ethical dimensions.

Weekdays and Saturdays

There is an Assembly every Monday and Tuesday one of which all members of Common Room are expected to attend. On Thursday's and Saturday's there are House College Chapel services, one of which all members of Common Room are expected to attend.

The example set by Common Room as a whole in regular attendance both on Saturdays and weekdays cannot be over-estimated. There is normally a celebration of Holy Communion on Saints' Days and Holy Days which any member of the College is welcome to attend.

On Remembrance Sunday there are services in Chapel for the whole school with an Act of Remembrance around the statue of St. George. This is an important gathering of the College community and members of Common Room are expected to attend. Gowns and hoods are worn. Gowns and hoods are worn on other special occasions e.g. Carol Services and Commemoration.

It is often difficult for members of other faith communities to attend their place of worship as these are often far removed from Malvern. However, the Crypt Chapel is available for all pupils as a worship centre, no matter what their religious belief.

The worship we offer in weekday Chapel is mainly of broadly Christian character, i.e. it reflects the main traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. We recognise that, if school worship is to have any meaning at all, it needs to be seen in very different terms from church worship. Worship which traditionally takes place in church is obviously not suitable when pupils represent a wide variety of Christian denominations and have not assembled for collective worship voluntarily.

We recognise that the pupils' readiness to worship will vary considerably, as will their understanding of what worship involves. It is our intention that acts of worship will leave pupils to respond in a variety of ways since no-one can be made to worship and no-one can impose what is, in essence, a spiritual experience. We seek therefore to provide acts of worship which can accommodate individual rather than uniform responses – our interpretation of the term 'collective worship'.

As some of our pupils are of other faith backgrounds or none, we aim to provide chapels on a regular basis which might be described as 'other', i.e. from another tradition or secular.