



Exmouth  
Community  
College  
Academy Trust

# **CITIZENSHIP POLICY**

## **including Assemblies and Collective Worship**

<b>Policy Details</b>	<b>Date</b>
Written by	Graham Allen
Reviewed by	Henri Miles
Ratified by	Curriculum Committee
Date agreed by Governors	23.01.24
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The College has a high regard for the concepts and principles contained within the National Curriculum Guidelines for Citizenship. Our curriculum is also underpinned by core British values.

### **Aims of Citizenship Education**

The following aims were drawn up following consultation with representatives from over 30 local organisations and charities and build upon the stated aims within the National Curriculum and the Exmouth Curriculum.

1. Students should understand their responsibilities as well as their rights.
2. They should understand the link between the individual and society – that one's actions have an impact beyond oneself.
3. Students should understand that respect is a key value. This is more than recognising authority – it is a mutual acceptance of each other and developing an awareness of where prejudice may exist.
4. Students should learn about the value of non-material and material things and be encouraged to be aware of the privileges they enjoy.
5. Students should learn to discuss and discern attitudes towards those who are perceived to have a 'disability'.
6. The role of volunteers and the wealth of experience they bring should be highlighted.
7. Students should be clear about where to go for advice – for example: emotional and financial.
8. Students should develop an awareness of demographic change and the role of representative democracy.
9. Students should develop an awareness of mental health issues and the possible stigma attached.
10. They should develop an understanding of how we have what we have and the changes that have had to occur to get where we are.
11. The qualities of compassion, restraint and self-discipline are important.

The College delivers Citizenship in the following ways

1. Scheduled slots within the Personal Development Programme (Lesson 42).
2. Pledged Activities within Subject Areas.
3. Specific days, events and assemblies.

### **Personal Development Programme (Lesson 42)**

Slots are agreed and published each year and for each year group. Details are available from Nathan Wright.

### **Pledged Activities**

An audit has been carried out in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, highlighting areas of Citizenship that are delivered by Departments.

### **Specific Days and Events**

The College participates in Youth Parliament elections and stages Mock General Elections. Lesson 42 and assemblies have linked to specific national campaigns such as Anti-Bullying Week, LGBT History Month and Energy Saving Week.

### **Assemblies and Collective Worship**

Exmouth Community College will promote the principle that Worship is a worthwhile activity that serves to reinforce the ethos of the College and the students' spiritual and moral development.

The Policy acknowledges Department for Education and Employment Circular Number 1/94 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', and Sections 70/71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and will seek to operate broadly within its requirements and as far as is practicable.

## **Definition of Worship**

This is a difficult term to define in an educational setting and this policy takes its definition from 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren:

***'Anything you do that brings pleasure to God is an act of worship....Worship is a lifestyle'***

## **Aims:**

To provide the opportunity for participants to worship God by:

- ❖ considering spiritual and moral issues
- ❖ exploring their own beliefs
- ❖ encouraging participation and response
- ❖ developing community spirit; promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

## **Purposes:**

We will use assemblies and curriculum time to evoke those senses and feelings from which worship most naturally arises:

- ❖ sense of beauty
- ❖ sense of wonder and awe
- ❖ feeling of pride
- ❖ sense of compassion
- ❖ sense of smallness in the face of greatness
- ❖ feeling of shared sadness
- ❖ sense of peace
- ❖ sense of thankfulness
- ❖ sense of stillness in the midst of a busy existence
- ❖ sense of shared humanity and its potential

## **Positive Outcomes:**

Developing a 'lifestyle' of worship means that opportunities should be provided for:

- ❖ the whole community to celebrate
- ❖ sharing and experiencing differences
- ❖ building a sense of group identity
- ❖ encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- ❖ learning how to behave in a social group
- ❖ learning how to perform in front of an audience
- ❖ learning how to respond to a performance
- ❖ making visible the College's leadership
- ❖ developing inner awareness
- ❖ exploring feelings and emotions
- ❖ stillness and quiet

## **Assemblies and Collective Worship**

- ❖ All Year Groups will attend assemblies regularly - organisation dependent upon availability of suitable spaces.

- ❖ A programme of Assembly themes related to the curriculum, Christian and other major religious calendars, will be drawn up by an Assembly Co-ordinator, allowing for flexibility within each Year Group as appropriate.
- ❖ Assemblies will be led by a combination of members of staff including Heads of Year, Assistant Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and the Headteacher.
- ❖ Key Stage 3 will also attend an annual Carol Service.
- ❖ There is a wealth of literary, musical and inspirational material available.
- ❖ Assemblies usually take place in a hall but may be moved to remote via teams in the classroom, if needed.
- ❖ All present at an Assembly will attempt to ensure that a 'special' atmosphere is created and sustained as students leave the Hall.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. No one will unlawfully be disadvantaged on the grounds of age, race or ethnicity, disability, gender and marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief under the operation of this policy.

This policy is also compliant with General Data Protection Regulations.