



# CHAPEL AND ASSEMBLY POLICY

# Chapel and Assembly

Date	Review Date	Monitoring	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
01/09/2021	01/09/2022	Every 2 years by Ed com	Ed Gray	Peter Gaskell

St David's College is registered with the Welsh Government as a School of Religious Character and specifically as a School with a Christian Foundation. We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school.

The following documentation was considered when preparing this policy:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship (Circular Number 1/94) (DfE)

It is important to note that we are an independent faith school and not subject to the statutory law on collective worship. As it is within our charitable objects to operate a school in the Christian faith, worship is a key part of our school ethos and operation. Our pupils are required to engage in collective worship through chapel attendance and other acts of worship which the school determines.

## PHILOSOPHY

"The presentation of the evangelical Christian faith showing the love of Christ both by example and teaching is to be an essential part of the school" (Trust Deeds). The school continues to actively promote the Christian faith as a living faith with the Bible being shown as relevant for today. Within this context the individual is given the highest value and the aim is to enable each pupil to reach his/her potential as a 'whole person'.

The spiritual life is viewed in terms of a journey of faith discovery and every member of the community has a different understanding of God, which we encourage pupils to share with each other in a respectful way. An individual discovers his/her own spirituality within the framework of the spiritual life of the community. The expressed aim is to keep this community spirituality both dynamic and relevant.

The overall purpose of our philosophy is to develop pupils who are mature and considered in faith, thoughtful of others, showing love for God and neighbour, rooted in prayer and scripture, and who make a positive difference to society.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

There is a weekly compulsory Sunday Service in school, usually in the evening. This is for all pupils between school years 5-11. Sixth formers are welcome to attend and a number usually do so.

The Service format is deliberately varied, ranging from lightly liturgical to non-liturgical, from formal to informal, always interactive and multi-sensory and multi-media. Pupils are encouraged to participate in the Services and 'own' them for themselves.

There is the opportunity for pupils to be creatively experimental in their expressions of prayer and worship, also pupils read, speak and are involved in quizzes, interactive discussions, small group conversations. However, we don't force anyone to pray and or sing songs if they do not wish to do so.

In Covid-19 times 'Bubbles' are suitably separated. Input and interactivity is synchronous between the bubbles facilitated by the use of technology - separate but together.

## FULL COMMUNITY ACTS OF WORSHIP

There is an awareness that Sunday Chapel does not bring the whole community together (it is seen as a vicarious form of community worship). Each week, on a Friday, we have a 'Chapel style' Assembly, as a full school Christian Act of Worship, which all pupils attend. In addition, each term there is at least one full school community celebration. Parents and guests are invited and the celebrations are strongly pupil led and vary in spiritual content:

Autumn Term: Harvest Festival, Advent, Carol Services/Celebrations  
 Spring Term: Epiphany, St David's Day and Eisteddfod Services/Celebrations  
 Summer Term: Thanksgiving Service/Celebration

Each year pupils are offered preparation for Baptism and Confirmation

## WEEKDAY ASSEMBLY/WORSHIP PATTERN

Day	Assembly	Character	Led by
Monday	Full School	Spiritual/moral teaching with Hymn and Prayer	Head/Deputy/Pupils
Tuesday	Tutor/Year Group	Ethical/spiritual/pastoral	Tutors/Year Head
Wednesday	Tutor/Year Group/Full School	Spiritual/moral/cultural varied pattern	Pupils/Tutors/Year Head/SLT
Thursday	House Assemblies	Ethical/spiritual/pastoral/House Admin	Housemasters
Friday	Full School	Chapel	Chaplain

This varied pattern enables communication to be offered and received at many different levels and it enables a wide contribution to be made by staff and pupils. This reinforces the philosophy of valuing the spiritual experience of all members of the school and gives opportunity for many to share. It enables the pupils to contribute in music/drama/reading to the whole school and at a more comfortable, smaller group level and where preparation can be done in Class/Tutor group/House contexts.

## YEAR THEME

The Chaplain in consultation with staff and pupils sets a theme for the Year which creates a focus for assemblies, Services and tutor groups.

Recent year themes have been:

- Hope 08
- Soul 09
- Imagine10
- Cold11
- Voice12
- Truth13
- Life14
- Bounceback 15
- Love-Hope-  
Strength
- Gift 17
- Together18
- Impact19
- Intent20

## CHAPLAINCY CENTRE

The Chaplaincy Centre is based in 'Garden Cottage'. Normally, the Chaplaincy is open Monday-Friday in the working day. This is made possible by having several staff appointed as Chaplains as well interns and additional staff support, as available. The aim is that pupils can come to the Centre in break times, during lessons if they are referred by staff and by appointment should they wish 1:1 support in anything ranging from a 'listening ear', to Christian nurture, to executive coaching and working in tandem with the Cadogan Centre. Intentionally, the Chaplaincy is very relaxed, has a 'feel' of being outside of school regime, whilst there is a total understanding by pupils and staff that we work within the [School Safeguarding Policy](#).

## VOLUNTARY CHRISTIAN NURTURE GROUPS

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in small groups. There is some variation in this pattern from year to year and the format of the meetings varies week by week and year by year.

## INTER DEPARTMENTAL AND CROSS CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

The Chaplaincy is not considered to be a separate entity within the school but interwoven through every area of school life. Opportunities are constantly sought to work alongside departments and regular examples are:

- RE/Spirituality Days with OEd
- Conflict Resolution and Leadership Days with 6<sup>th</sup> Form
- Resilience and Exam Stress workshops with exam candidates
- Eisteddfod with English, Music and Welsh

## COMPASSION AND HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

The chaplain encourages pupils to be involved in compassion and humanitarian work. The school has developed its own charity for this purpose and in recent years pupils have regularly visited and worked on projects in Uganda and locally with the Food Bank and many charity events.

## LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Close links are fostered with the local community through combined church functions, the Local Youth for Christ Centre and the use of local churches for main school events such as the Carol Service and Confirmation Service. When appropriate and available we have interns who support the Chaplaincy programme.

## OTHER FAITHS

Pupils of all faiths or none are welcomed at St David's College and an atmosphere of religious tolerance and mutual support is fundamental to the school ethos. Pupils of other faiths or none are expected to be part of our whole school community and celebrating with the community is considered to be an essential aspect of full assimilation within the community. However, pupils who wish to pray or worship in accordance with their own faith tradition are encouraged to do so by being facilitated in making connections with their own faith communities and/or places of worship locally. Each boarding house has a notice offering the contact details of other faiths represented locally.

## VISITORS

Visiting speakers, music and theatrical groups are encouraged. However, careful 'vetting' is essential to ensure both the quality of presentation is sufficiently professional, the material is appropriate and does not undermine fundamental British values. The Headmaster is consulted over visitors coming to St David's in terms of suitability and timing during the school year. The Protocol is always followed.

Sunday Chapel tends to have a regular annual schedule of visitors returning each year – these are visitors who have proved to be good communicators and appreciate the St David's Sunday Service context. However, new visitors are always sought to be included in the programme.

It is the expected norm to have at least one group of resident visitors for up to one week during the school year – possibly a theatre company or musical group - to stimulate thoughts about faith. The Gideons visit the school annually. Where possible there will be an overlap between the Chapel requirements and providing input into the Religious Studies programme.

## STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- All staff are expected to attend full assemblies
- Year Heads and Tutors are expected to attend Year Group assemblies
- Housemasters and house staff are expected to attend House assemblies
- Resident staff support Sunday Chapel

## EQUALITY

Under the Equality Act 2010, St. David's has a duty not to discriminate against any of the protected characteristics. Due regard has been given to equality law when developing and implementing St David's policies, practices and day-to-day activities. St David's will continually monitor the way this policy operates to ensure it does not unlawfully discriminate, permit harassment or victimisation, or limit equality of opportunity. St David's is committed to meeting its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 at all times.