



Collective worship in religiously-plural and secular settings: Why it is difficult, why it is valuable, how it is possible.

Dr. Julia Ipgrave, University of Warwick

Committee Room 1
UCL, Institute of Education
University College London
20 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AL

15th October 2015
5.30pm – 7.00pm

All welcome. Talk, followed by discussion over tea and coffee.

No registration required.

To indicate interest or for any questions please contact:
creme@ioe.ac.uk

Dr. Ipgrave's presentation investigates religious and theological issues pertaining to collective worship, in acknowledgement of the fact that controversies about collective worship tend to focus on its *religious* content and, additionally, that criticisms (religious and secular) of the current arrangement often rest on assumptions about theology, the relationship between worship and belief and the inappropriateness of collective worship where belief is not shared.

The presentation seeks to test some of these claims by countering simplistic interpretations of 'worship' that either widen its scope so far as to make it meaningless or so restrict it as to make it impossible within a school setting. It does this with illustrations from school practice and by engaging with the theologically-informed theories and practices of those who recognise the civic and relational value (as well as the parameters) of joint opportunities for worship in religiously-plural and secular society. Through this engagement it seeks to offer a nuanced understanding of 'worship' that allows for shared experience and commonality of intention and action while respecting the individual pupil's integrity and freedom of response.

Special Interest Group:

Education and Religion