



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This is an Academy specific policy. It applies to SSA Assemblies and related events on or off site only.

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Owner of Statement: Sara Cheston

Authorised By: ALT

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Distribution: **All Staff**

Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy for the Trust pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered.

1. Rationale

- 1.1** Whilst there are no legal requirements for academies to hold ‘assemblies’, the law states that all pupils/students are required to participate in a daily act of worship. The aim of this policy is to outline what Collective Worship means for academies within the Trust and how it is delivered.

2. Definition of Collective Worship

- 2.1** Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils/students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils’/students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is not to be equated with corporate worship where participants share the same faith.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

3.1 For the Academies within the Trust

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of each academy and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values.
- Celebrate achievement and special times.
- Explore together the world in which we live.
- Develop a community spirit.
- Teach tolerance and acceptance of every person in the school and wider community
- Encourage pupils/students to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.

3.2 For the Pupils/Students

3.2.1 We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil/student as a ‘whole’ person by providing opportunities to:

- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Explore their own beliefs.
- Develop their own spirituality.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Participate and respond.
- Reflect on what it means to be human.

4. The Contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum

- 4.1 Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time and will form a part of assembly time (whole school, year and form assemblies). However, there will be times when Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils/students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

5. Organisation of Collective Worship

- 5.1 Assemblies are led by the Principal of each Academy, members of the Leadership Team as well as middle leaders, other members of staff and any guest speakers.

6. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

- 6.1 The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.
- 6.2 Assemblies may link to the special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. This ensures that there is continuity and progression. Themes which will be revisited include:
- Care and co-operation.
 - Courage.
 - Honesty and integrity.
 - Forgiveness.
 - Friendship.
 - Respect
 - Rights and responsibilities.
 - Empathy
- 6.3 Assemblies and times of collective worship will also be used to highlight and promote whole school initiatives e.g. Citizenship and PSHE programmes. They may also be used to incorporate groups involved in the wider school community.
- 6.4 Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time. Leaders from different faiths within the area will increase the pupils'/students' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils/students who belong to these faiths.
- 6.5 Flexibility is essential to preserve the very personal element for the worship leader(s) and to allow for response to school, local or national events. A record is kept of assemblies taken in order to ensure that a broadly Christian emphasis is maintained.

7. The Act of Collective Worship

- 7.1** A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, age, aptitude and the background of the pupils/students.
- 7.2** The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual.

8. Withdrawal

- 8.1** Any parents/carers who object to their child attending an act, or acts, of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn in discussion with the Principal of the Academy.