
Policy for

Collective Worship

Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Directors	Signed	Renewal Date (3 year cycle)
		----- Chair of Board of Directors	

Collective Worship Policy

Aims of collective worship

The Academy's daily act of worship aims to:

- Promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development;
- Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- Provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life;
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Encourage participation and response;
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Provide an opportunity for calm reflection;
- Provide an opportunity to recite the Academy statement of thanks.

Collective Worship

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the Academy coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school and participating in an assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our Academy are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the Academy and the wider community. Parents and representatives from the wider faith communities are invited and encouraged to visit the Academy.

Organisation of collective worship

- We hold a daily act of worship in our Academy and this forms part of each day. It may include music, song, stories, and shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayers and reflection.
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that assembly time is a period of calm and reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- The Principal and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, and local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups regularly conduct them as well.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Further opportunities for children to explore awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas such as R.E, Literacy, Art, Science, PHSCE and music.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their learning to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- We invite parents to assembly as and when required and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the Academy and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the Academy work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents and friends are further invited to many special assemblies such as Harvest, Leavers, Christmas, etc.
- We welcome governors attendance at our assemblies at any time.

The pattern for collective worship in our Academy is as follows:

INSERT HERE

Right to Withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the Academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and is restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The Principal keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and Reviewing

- Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussions with valued feedback from parents, governors and visitors. It is the role of the named Academy governor, **INSERT NAME HERE**, with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Principal before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

