

Collective Worship Policy

1.0 Aims of the policy

To clarify The Trust's key values and beliefs with regard to collective worship.

2.0 Introduction

This collective worship policy pays due regard to statutory requirements stating that each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents.

It is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship in schools will be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature".

Our schools will also reflect the religious backgrounds represented in their communities and assemblies will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

This provision applies to all pupils who are of statutory school age.

This means that some older children in a reception class may well come under the requirement for daily collective worship, whereas other, younger children in the class will not. However, wherever possible and appropriate, all pupils in the schools should be included and provision should be made for them so that the content is equally appropriate and accessible.

3.0 Definition of collective worship

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 an opportunity to reflect and show respect, through engaging in relevant and meaningful experiences; providing opportunities for the pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

4.0 Aims of collective worship

- To contribute significantly to the ethos of the school, sharing common aims and values.
- Celebrate achievement and special times.
- Explore our own, and others, beliefs and the opportunity for reflection.
- To draw on the values and traditions of religions as appropriate, encouraging the ability to see value in the traditions of others.
- To encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community.
- To help understand the importance of British values and being responsible citizens.
- To address a wide range of themes and topics.
- To use diverse stimuli and resources.
- For pupils to participate and respond at their own level.

5.0 Curriculum links and planning

Collective worship times should have strong and planned links to the work being done in curriculum time, thereby enhancing experiences and making them more relevant and meaningful.

The content will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

They will follow a planned weekly timetable and may have a theme over a longer period of time. Special events and occasions will be followed, but there will also be enough flexibility to allow for the inclusion of current and topical issues.

6.0 Delivery

A variety of teaching and learning styles and interactive methods are appropriate in collective worship acts. The content and process must be stimulating and interesting.

Collective worship times provide an ideal opportunity for pupils to be introduced and exposed to a variety of different music styles, cultures and traditions, a range of composers and musical instruments. This is positively encouraged and should link to work in the pupil's other curriculum work.

Collective acts of worship can be delivered in a variety of interesting and imaginative ways. For example; through P4C (Philosophy for Children) themes and discussions, Pupil Parliament work especially the debates, in connection with RE and PSHE themes and through Social Action projects. ***There should be some element of worship – prayer, reflection or meditation to define it as an act of worship rather than purely curriculum led.***

Schools are not encouraged to follow a set or recommended 'scheme' but may choose to do so.

Colleagues will share good resources and best practice with staff in other schools and hubs.

7.0 Management and organisation

Collective worship times are timetabled and planned for. They are organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place usually, but not exclusively, in the school hall or classrooms.

A named member of staff, or group of staff, will be responsible for the planning and coordination of the timetable, content and rota of people leading the assemblies.

Academy Heads, Senior Teachers, other teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship.

Collective acts of worship may be monitored to ensure high quality in the same way that other areas of school and the curriculum are.

8.0 Visitors leading collective worship

Visitors will be given clear information regarding the age and ability of the pupils, purpose of the occasion and will be made aware of this policy prior to them attending the school. The content and appropriate delivery will be discussed.

Safeguarding and other induction procedures will be followed in the same way as they would with any other visitor to the school.

9.0 Withdrawal of pupils from collective worship

Our aim is to make collective worship as inclusive, interesting and relevant as possible to all members of our school so that everyone feels comfortable in attending and taking part.

However, parents/carers may choose to withdraw their children from collective worship. If this is the case, the Academy Head will meet with the parent/carer to discuss this.

The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship.

It may sometimes be necessary for a pupil or group of pupils not to attend collective worship in order to work with a member of staff or to take part in additional teaching etc. Care will be taken to balance the needs of the pupil/s to undertake this work or extra support with the benefits to them of taking part in the collective worship sessions.

Document Control

Changes History

Version	Date	Amended By	Details of Change
V2	07/05/2020	Sam Cutler	Complete re-write
V3	10/01/2022	Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne	Amended point 2 to include 'accessible'
V4	12/1/2024	Debbie Thomas	Amended point 3 to include "reflect" and "respect"

Approval

This policy will be reviewed annually by Director of Primary Education or as required by changes in legislation.

At every review, this policy will be approved by the Education & Learning Committee.

The policy was last approved by the Education & Learning Committee on 26/02/2024.

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