

Collective Worship Policy

Review Date: May 2024

Review By: Curriculum, Standards and Progress Committee

Final Approval: Curriculum, Standards and Progress Committee

Academy Context

The Core Values of the academy which relate specifically to this policy state that we are working together to form relationships based on

- **Faith** – everyone is invited to develop their understanding of Christian belief, worship and lifestyle.
- **Justice** – everyone is entitled to be treated fairly and to promote the self-esteem of others.
- **Responsibility** – everyone is expected to understand the consequences of their actions.
- **Truth** – everyone is required to be honest and to communicate in a positive manner.
- **Compassion** – everyone is encouraged to be generous in their concern for others

Such values contribute to the academy's common purpose of 'striving for high quality education with a strong Christian ethos'.

Data Protection

Any personal data processed in the delivery of this policy will be processed in accordance with the academy Data Protection policy.

Introduction

As a Church academy, everything we do is based on our five core Christian values and is summed up biblically by 'Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8). We are committed to the provision of high-quality collective worship opportunities in a Christian context. We aim to provide opportunities where we can live out our vision and enable all to flourish.

We believe that life should be lived out to the full, through direction and guidance from the Lord. Our intent is that the daily experiences within the Academy will enable our students to develop holistically, growing in character and valuing all others.

Policy

Collective worship will:

- be designed to celebrate Christian seasons and festivals, values associated with our vision and students' and adults' achievements;
- provide opportunities for prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- extend understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions;
- develop our growth as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision;
- invite participation and response, including through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- affirm individuals in their dignity, 'made in the image of God';
- give space for individuals to worship God on their own terms.

The Academy will:

- ensure all aspects of school life – teaching, learning, leading, governance, is informed by its core values, thus upholding Fundamental British Values;

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- hold worship at its heart and express its Christian distinctiveness in the way we live out our lives together and in our collective worship;
- recognise each member of its community has a different background and story, and seek to create an atmosphere where the God-given potential is drawn out of all, in order for them to thrive wherever life takes them;
- ensure that worship is given primacy in the school day and year, through assemblies, form worship, communion, liturgical events and other opportunities;
- encourage a range of responses through word, music, drama, art, dance and other expressions of worship;
- engage with the local church and faith communities to provide relevant and representative assemblies and acts of communion;
- ensure statutory requirements are met with regard to collective worship (Appendix 1);
- evaluate worship using the SIAMS framework

Students will:

- learn to live by core values through academic study, discrete faith activities and everyday interactions;
- be inspired by spiritual and extra-curricular experiences, and in turn, inspire hope in others;
- become stronger, well-rounded and content individuals who value themselves and others;
- be given opportunities to develop and experience an inclusive environment;
- be able to participate in groups and activities which deepen and demonstrate their faith through service;
- be able to develop their understanding of the Christian faith through leading form and year assemblies, writing prayers, and contributing to whole school expressions of faith;
- be able to take up leadership opportunities as Chaplaincy Ambassador.

The Lay Chaplain will:

- Lead the design of worship, so that it is invitational, inclusive and inspiring;
- Maintain own CPD in relation to this;
- Train staff and students in worship planning and leadership;
- Work with the Chaplaincy Advisor to develop the collective worship programme;
- Provide the liturgy for collective worship, where this is appropriate;
- Plan and monitor the worship calendar;
- Evaluate collective worship.

The Headteacher will:

- Support the Lay Chaplain in ensuring that collective worship is of the required standard and nature;
- Ensure the faith ethos of the school is maintained as high profile in recruitment and induction;
- Provide time and resource for training for staff;
- Support opportunities for the academy to liaise within and beyond the diocese to enrich worship
- Maintain links with the diocese and other organisations (eg the Woodard Corporation) to provide high quality collective worship opportunities.

Governors will:

- ensure provision is in line with the Trust Deed;
- monitor the implementation of this policy;
- appoint a Foundation governors as Chaplaincy Link governor.

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Appendix 1

Statutory Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that “all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship”. The academy seeks to fulfil this obligation by delivering high quality collective worship in accordance with its stated Intent and reflecting the Anglican character of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special services take place in the school and local churches during the course of the academic year, with Communion being celebrated regularly.

The Lay Chaplain, supported by the Chaplaincy Advisor, is responsible for the strategic planning of the worship life of the school.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship, and this will be explained at the start of each academic year.

School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of students withdrawn from acts of collective worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time and parents are asked to supply suitable material for reflection appropriate to their child’s needs. Please note the right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation

Students take part in a year group worship assembly each week. Worship assemblies follow a theme, and annually the academy’s core values will be included in those themes. Silence, stillness, music and prayer will be elements of collective worship.

Assembly Rota			
Day	Year Group	Year Team Assembly	
		Week A	Week B
Mon	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9
Tue	6 th Form		Year 8
Wed	Year 10		Year 11
Thur	Year 8 & 9	Year 7 & 6 th Form	6 th Form
Fri	Year 7		

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