



Collective Worship Policy

Love God, Love Learning, Love One Another

1. Legal requirements

The Funding Agreement requires CDAT to make provision for daily acts of collective worship in each academy and that this worship shall be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. The quality of this collective worship must be inspected by an inspector chosen by CDAT.

2. Guiding principles

CDAT academies are inclusive, creative communities that build understanding, respect and empathy in young people. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths (or none) are welcome. Our academies are communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. In regular acts of formal worship the academy community has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns.

Collective worship will always seek to reflect the Christian foundation of the academy and its care for all who work there. Young people should be helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'. Collective worship will be inclusive and educational.

3. Aims

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:



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- worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- have time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;

The worship will:

- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

4. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation

- Planning is completed for each half term. Themes are chosen following discussion between the Headteacher and the Collective Worship co-ordinator.
- Planning is saved on Staff Shared and in a file held by the Headteacher. This avoids repetition of themes.
- Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:
 - written observations; checking that practice matches planning
 - observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
 - conducting occasional formal observations of Collective Worship to evaluate its quality and effectiveness
 - seeking feedback from participants in Collective Worship
 - observing the extent of the Collective Worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
 - holding regular discussions with colleagues
 - reflection books will be monitored each half term.
 - discussions with the School Ethos Council; involving them in planning, delivering and evaluating Collective Worship

5. Visitors leading Collective Worship

Each visitor should be personally communicated with and briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes should be discussed and suggestions made.

6. The right of withdrawal.

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

It is hoped and prayed that through our Collective Worship, children will be encouraged to live the Gospel values.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following relevant policies: RE/Equal Opportunities



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This policy was ratified by the Curriculum Committee, after due consultation with staff at its meeting on 16.9.18
This policy will be reviewed in September 2020.