



# Collective Worship Policy

Following Jesus' teachings about peace and love, we strive to develop our school family into people who will serve the community they live and work in with respect and compassion. We encourage everyone to develop their unique talents, achieve their full academic potential and take pride in all they do.

<b>Chair of Governors Head Teacher</b>	Mr I Bailey Mrs S Smith
<b>Adopted by the Local Governing Body on:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
<b>Date of next review:</b>	September 2023

School improvement

3	<b><u>Policy guidance provided:</u> statutory policies but ones that require consideration at local level to ensure pupils' needs are fully met and local circumstances are taken into account. Central team provides policy guidance.</b>
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<b>Policy Title:</b>	Collective Worship
<b>Policy Reference:</b>	
<b>Function:</b>	For information and guidance in determining the Academy's guidance on collective worship.
<b>Status:</b>	Desirable
<b>Audience:</b>	Governors, Principal, Teachers, Support Staff, Chaplain, Local Authority, Students
<b>Ownership/ Implementation:</b>	<p>The Principal and the Governing Body have overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented.</p> <p>The Principal and Governors are responsible for ensuring that staff, parents and students are made aware of this policy and that the contents below are followed.</p>
<b>Version:</b>	
<b>Issued for:</b>	ODST Trustees
<b>Date for Review:</b>	

# Collective Worship Policy

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

## **We believe:**

Christopher Rawlins CE Primary school is an inclusive, creative community that builds understanding, respect and empathy in young people. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths (or none) are welcome. Our school is a faith community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages 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 our school community has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

## **Legal Requirements**

*"Worship will be - appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils, - provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders." (DFES)*

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the religious character of our Academy as part of the ODST Corporation of Schools.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are:

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature
3. Collective worship is Educational

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural**

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the Academy day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the Academy and the wider community.

### **Inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. The ODST trust and CRPS welcomes students and staff of all faiths. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognize and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community.
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

### **Educational**

Our acts of collective worship will aim to provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values ;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life.
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
  - identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other main Academy events; (this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils);

### **Personnel responsible for worship**

The Headteacher is the Collective Worship leader who plans a month at a time the direction that collective worship will take including the key messages and link to the current value being explored. Collective Worship will follow the Christian calendar and incorporate local and national initiatives too.

### **Personnel involved in leading worship.**

All staff are encouraged to take part in leading Collective Worship whether for whole school, phase or class.

Regular leaders are the Headteacher, the clergy of the local church, the music coordinator and the Senior leadership team. We will also invite others in to lead worship as and when appropriate. Additionally, we have an Ethos & Worship pupil group and this committee will lead Collective Worship as well as classes.

We have Pupil worship leaders each day.

### **Timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils.**

Collective Worship take place Mon – Thurs at 9am as a way to start the day collectively together. Church services are attended and the timings of these will be suited to service and time to get to and from church within the school day. On Friday we join together as a whole school at 2.30pm

### **Planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values**

All staff have access to the monthly plan of Worship – this focuses on a core school Christian value in each term.

### **Monitoring and evaluation procedures.**

Governors will monitor Collective Worship as well as the Ethos and Worship committee carrying out Monitoring. Pupil questionnaires and conversations will also be used to monitor and evaluate.

### **Opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day.**

All classes are expected to in addition to Collective Worship include two others forms of pray and quiet reflection time. There are three times expected per day– start of the day, lunchtime time and end of the day. One of these is done in collective worship as a whole school.

### **Rights of withdrawal**

The right of withdrawal was established in the Education Act 1944, re-enacted in the Education Reform Act 1988.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents are asked to discuss the matter with the Principal in the first instance.

If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship then the Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. The Academy remains responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from collective worship, unless the student is lawfully taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

## **Appendix 1 – Guidelines on Implementation**

Overview;

Our assemblies are of a clearly Christian character, recognizing the diversity of the Academy community, and provide occasions when pupils meet together in larger, more formal settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Some Academy staff will have a key role in the delivery of Assemblies and collective worship in the Academy. Both the Chaplain and worship coordinator will have a key role in providing a lead in this area, ensuring that Acts of Collective Worship in the Academy are of high quality, well-coordinated and delivered effectively, in line with these overall policy guidelines.

Assemblies are also an essential means of recognizing and celebrating Academy values and achievements in their broadest sense. Within all assemblies' students are recognized for their personal achievement, both Academy based and, in the community, and groups of pupils are also commended for their corporate achievements. Pupils are awarded, in assemblies, with certificates, prizes, shields etc., for academic achievement, high attendance, punctuality, contribution to Academy or community projects.

Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in planning, preparing, presenting and responding to assemblies, thereby giving them a platform for positively contributing to the ethos of the school and for providing role models for other pupils. The involvement of pupils in assemblies, irrespective of race, gender, age or ability, is an effective vehicle for developing their self-confidence and for encouraging cooperation, respect and tolerance amongst all pupils.

(i) Collective worship will:

- have a clear message
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

(ii) In achieving a meaningful act of worship it is important to distinguish between worship and ritual. Rituals are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- students' contributions

The Academy will be aware of the timing of religious festivals and any specific requirements relating to them.

(iii) It can be helpful to consider three aspects:

- Experiences that have the character of pre-worship e.g. joy
- The essence of worship – attending to the divine
- Consequences of worship – e.g. moral and ethical values renewed and directed e.g. courage. As part of our collective worship students will have the opportunity to be quiet and reflect on what has been shared. Students and/or adults will lead the prayer session.

(iv) It is not appropriate to

- make students repeat a prayer if they do not wish
- join their hands if they do not wish
- say 'Amen' if they do not wish
- always have prayers: intersperse Collective Worship with reflection, silence or discussion

(v) We expect students to

- be respectful
- act in an appropriate manner
- have the daily opportunity for a sense of togetherness which engenders a sense of belonging
- have an understanding that worship is not done for students but is an experience for all who attend

(vi) We expect staff to

- lead where applicable in the agreed manner, including class assemblies
- respond to collective worship in an appropriate manner
- develop links with faith groups and at times, offer them the opportunity to lead assemblies and collective worship in the agreed format for our school

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.