

# Collective Worship Policy

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The Education Fellowship is wholly committed to the highest standards of moral care and ensuring our students are challenged, provoked and informed on personal, social and moral issues. This commitment shapes the arrangement for acts of collective worship at each academy, which is underpinned by:

-  care and support
-  respect and responsibility
-  reflective self-development
-  partnership
-  careful planning

## **Policy aims to:**

-  contribute significantly to students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
-  provide a worthwhile educational experience
-  provide opportunities for staff, students and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the academy
-  provide quality acts of collective worship which enables students to develop appropriate skills, reflect upon broadly Christian and other characteristics of leading a good life and take on roles of leadership and responsibility
-  provide opportunities for worship, reverence, celebration and reflection
-  provide a worship experience that does not violate the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths
-  contribute to and support the wider curriculum

## **Policy monitoring**

Regular monitoring and evaluation of the policy will occur via the Principal/Headteacher or designated senior leader. The positive educational outcomes of collective worship at the academy include opportunities for:

-  the whole community to celebrate
-  sharing and experiencing differences
-  building a sense of group identity
-  encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
-  a break from the business of life (for stillness and quiet)
-  learning how to behave in a large social group

<b>Response to legal requirements</b>	
<p>The Education Reform Act 1996 requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every academy to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations</p>	<p>The academy meets the legal requirements for collective worship, this is conditioned by a number of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· the need to make our response meaningful, relevant and appropriate to our students and thus meet the spirit of the law</li> <li>· the logistics involved in gathering large groups of students in one place in all kinds of weathers and</li> <li>· the difficulty in obtaining the interest and co-operation of Staff in carrying out collective worship in the classroom which is "wholly or mainly broadly Christian"</li> </ul> <p>The requirement concerning tradition and practice will be shared with everyone involved in the planning and delivery of Acts of Worship</p>
<p>Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship. Teachers, including Principals/Headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal</p>	<p>It is intended that consultation will take place before requests are made to withdraw from Acts of Worship. In the case of parents contact needs to be made with the Principal/Headteacher. In the case of teachers this contact is made with the appropriate line manager. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in Acts of Collective Worship is given on the academy website</p>
<p>In county schools Collective Worship is to be "wholly or mainly broadly Christian"</p>	<p>In any one term the majority of collective acts of worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and teaching</p>
<p>In providing acts of Collective Worship the ages, aptitude and family background of students should be taken into account</p>	<p>Appropriate account will be taken of the fact that a number of families do not have any religious affiliation</p>

<b>Response to DfE guidelines circular 1/94</b>	
Collective Worship should aim to provide the opportunity for students to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs (para 50)	This advice would be adequately covered by academy practice
Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary academy activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power (para 57)	Specific time is set aside for this activity but we recognise the difficulty of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities
An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material..... It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ (para 63)	Material for assemblies comes from a wide variety of sources including Christian. A number of assemblies in any term would address the tradition of Christian belief and the special status accorded to Jesus Christ