



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST



Collective Worship Policy

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

July 2022

Worship Statement

Worship at All Saints Academy is to enable the spiritual development of all members of the school community, concerned with identifying, affirming and celebrating ideals and values held to be of central importance to the school family.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To understand about God, faith and spirituality
- To begin to communicate develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- To increase a sense of self-worth and the worth of others
- To provide a time of peace and tranquillity, to gather, be still and to reflect
- To promote the appreciation that silence can be a means of communication
- To develop a sense of self-worth and the worth and needs of others through celebrating achievements
- To develop a sense of community – its demands, values, rituals and celebrations
- To share the joys and sorrows of life
- To develop understanding of the Churches calendar and liturgy
- Within a Christian framework, allow children to build relations with God, each other, the world and God's creation.

Legal Requirements – 1988 Education Act

All pupils shall on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship. Provision is made for children to be withdrawn if their parents so wish. Permission for withdrawal must be made in writing to the Headteacher. Withdrawn children sit outside the hall and rejoin the assembly in time for the sharing of notices and successes.

Despite being in an Academy we still inherited the Status of a voluntary controlled school and as such in schools such as All Saints, the Governing Body is responsible for the arrangement of Collective Worship after consultation with the Headteacher. The character of the worship is in accordance with the principles of the Church of England, thereby being “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” as determined by the trust deed.”

Practicalities

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis in the school hall and is led by the following people : -

Monday	- Assistant Head
Tuesday	- Hymn Practise
Wednesday	- Clergy and other church members
Thursday	- RE Leader
Friday	- Values and celebration Assembly

Wednesday assemblies are led by members from All Saints Church specifically the rector and members of the congregation known as the 'Open the Book' team. We celebrate key Christian festivals and other annual events; with a service either in the Parish church or school as deemed appropriate. All staff are invited to these celebrations.

We also welcome occasional visitors from other organisations to lead our collective worship. Parents, governors and friends of the school are invited to join us at many of these gatherings. We conclude our Autumn Term with a Nativity, led by our Foundation and KS1 children held in term.

An information sheet is available to all who take part in leading collective worship and suggests e.g. how and when to involve children, which resources to use and how to avoid interruptions.

We have a Collective Worship Group; made up of staff, Foundation Governors and members of our churches. This meets Termly to discuss the content of our collective worship gatherings. We follow the church calendar and develop themes which relate to issues that are relevant in school at the time. This group aims to ensure that collective worship sessions help to develop the children's understanding of Anglican tradition and practice. Where possible we strive to develop the children's awareness of the global aspects of the Christian faith.

The format of our collective worship usually follows a similar pattern. A candle is often lit to signify the beginning of the gathering and a holy table is prepared with symbols and other items relevant to the theme of the Collective Worship. The singing of a hymn follows this. A story or short talk is given, followed by prayers. The collective worship usually concludes with a second hymn. Although this is the usual pattern, leaders of the worship bring their own style and approach.

We keep a record of our collective worship, noting who led the worship, the main theme and hymns sung.

We attempt to involve children in our collective worship and try to make the content as varied as possible including – story telling, poetry, sharing personal experiences, periods of reflection, discussions, drama, mime, role play, video and audio media. We also make use of a wide variety of visual aids e.g. pictures, posters, objects and religious artefacts. Music also plays a large part in the preparation for worship as well as worship itself.

At the end of each school day, each class will finish by saying the school prayer.

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord, bless our school.
That by working together
and playing together

we may learn to serve God,
and one another.
Amen

Inclusion

Worship should be an activity and experience to which, in principle, all can contribute and from which all can gain, no matter what their personal commitment or life style. Pupil integrity should not be compromised.

It should provide experiences in which those who wish to worship can do so, whilst enabling those whose commitment is different or less to learn about worship and what it means to those who take an active part.

Parents do have a right to withdraw pupils from collective worship.

Education

The educational value of worship is developed by fostering a sense of community, identity and self-esteem. It is an occasion when the school family can meet together. It provides a time to celebrate special occasions or achievements, to reflect on common values and to provide an opportunity for using gifts and talents.

The overall pattern of worship should be part of the whole school curriculum, even if occasionally unique within it. It may be an intentional learning experience, requiring careful planning, preparation, execution, evaluation and resources, or it may be a focus or a launching pad for what goes on elsewhere in the school.

Special Occasion

Collective worship should foster a sense of special occasion. Positive preparation and effective organisation, using a wide variety of resources and approaches, should create the appropriate atmosphere and environment.

It is an opportunity to develop not only values and beliefs that are part of the broad traditions of Christian belief, but also those widely held by society at large. It should focus on concepts which are central to Christian belief and which are shared across Christian traditions.

Sophie Morris

RE Leader

January 2020 updated July 2020

A copy of this policy will be given to all relevant employees and will be displayed within the school.

Signed _____

(Headteacher)

Date _____

Signed _____

(Chair of the Governing Body)

Date _____