



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

Learning Academy Partnership (South West) Collective Worship Policy

'I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full.' - *John 10:10*

Collective Worship is a fundamental part of the life of our academies. It offers our children the opportunity to reflect, consider their own beliefs and values and to come together to share a collective sense of community rooted in Christian Values.

Our vision statement and list of aims outline the importance of recognising the place of God in our world and in our lives. We believe that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. It provides children with time to develop an increasing sense of self-awareness, consider moral issues within a Christian context and to deepen their understanding of worship within a setting that is distinctively Christian. Worship plays a significant part in achieving our aims which are to:

Aims

It is our aim within the Learning Academy Partnership that worship should: -

Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child

- Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship
- Explore, reflect on and think more deeply about important moral and social issues within a Christian context
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation
- Celebrate all that is of value in life
- Explore mystery and the important questions about life
- Express their concerns, hopes and joy
- Build their relationship with God
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Nurture their individual spiritual growth
- Celebrate the whole school community and the individual values that everyone brings
- Provide a safe space in which children can express thoughts and feelings
- Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

To introduce children to the worship of the Church of England

- Develop an understanding of the nature and language of worship
- Provide opportunities to engage with prayer and to reflect upon its importance
- Learn key prayers of Christianity and the Anglican Church
- Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer
- Give pupils a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
- Explore and learn different genres of Christian music
- Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material
- Learn to use the church service books
- Provide opportunities to worship God and experience the concepts of reverence, celebration and reflection

To gain a knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith

- Explore Christian beliefs about God
- Enable the children to reflect on Christian values and beliefs
- Develop an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible
- Develop an understanding of the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Learn about the significance and concept of the Trinity
- Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus
- Share in Church life and Christian practice
- Experience different forms of worship
- Celebrate key festivals and Saints Days throughout the year
- Gain an understanding of the liturgical colours of the church year and how these are represented within the church

To explore and share the beliefs of others

- Celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faiths
- Discover how members of other faiths worship
- Observe special celebrations from other faiths
- Develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and practices of people of other faiths and worldviews

To contribute to the general development of pupils

- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing presentation skills
- Learn the skill of choral speaking
- Develop pupils singing ability and knowledge of Christian repertoire
- Participate in group planning, preparation and presentation of Collective Worship
- Inspire a love of lifelong learning
- Equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens who have a positive impact within the wider society
- Praise all types of achievement, celebrating work by pupils in all areas of the curriculum

To celebrate and take note of the life of the Academy in the presence of God

- Understand the vision of the Learning Academy Partnership 'I came so that they might have life and have it to the full' John 10:10
- Develop an understanding in every child that God is always with them (Psalm 139, Matthew (28:20)
- Build up a sense of community and belonging in the academy
- Develop and reflect upon the values of the Academy
- Develop in every child acknowledge of the immeasurable enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
- Share achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community
- Provide members of the academy community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- Provide members of the academy community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- Develop in every child an understanding that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16:7)

- Develop an understanding in every child that, because of the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the cross, they can approach God without fear (Hebrews 4:16)

To look out into the wider world

- To take notes of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
- To celebrate and give thanks for God's world
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- To encourage global citizenship and social responsibility
- To encourage positive contribution to the wider community
- To develop a sense of increasing respect and understanding in order to live cohesively in pluralistic societies

Legal Status of Collective Worship

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'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

In accordance with Learning Academy Partnership (South West) Master Funding Agreement, each of our academies shall make provision for the teaching of religious education and for a daily act of worship.

The overall responsibility for leading Collective Worship in our academies rests with the Executive Headteacher. The responsibility of planning for Collective Worship rests with the Trust RE and Christian Distinctiveness Lead.

All Acts of Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in our academies we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of central Christian Values.

Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is central to the life of each Church of England Academy. Each class within a Church of England Academy has a Worship/Prayer Corner which should be kept fresh, up to date and relevant. In addition to whole Academy Act of Worship, set prayers in classrooms throughout the day include the following: 'The Morning Prayer', 'lunch time prayer' and 'The Lord's Prayer.' Prayers written by the children and other relevant prayers also form part of prayer opportunities.

The Executive Headteacher and directors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the Academy from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The Academy recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable

way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moment of silences and reflection etc

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Worship Leader, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

Rights of Withdrawal

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing respect and understanding for people of all faiths and worldviews. Worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements. However, worship is always distinctively Christian.

At each Academy we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This will always be discouraged and the Academy expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Executive Headteacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The Academy will provide a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work will be set or followed in this time.

All teachers, will participate and lead, as appropriate, the Act of Collective Worship.

Each Act of Worship should last approximately approx 15 minutes.

Weekly Acts of Worship

The first Act of Worship of the week will set the scene for the week and reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos, key Christian Values and current events.

Throughout the rest of the week daily Acts of Worship will take place and each Academy will determine their own timetable to provide provision for this.

Additional Acts of Worship throughout the week will include a class collective worship, hymn practice, worship led by a member of the local church and worship as part of the celebration of children's achievements that week. This is NOT a performance and should stay true to a 'simple' Act of Worship.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective worship based on either: Diocesan Planner/Roots and Fruits/SEAL/Values for Life/Church Calendar/etc. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. During the week the children will have the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Class teachers develop and explore within their class worship from the themes and events that occur during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The quality of Worship is evaluated by the Worship Leader and Executive Head in consultation with the Local Advisory Committee. Children can also form part of the monitoring and evaluation of worship and can inform themes for the next term.

Our Foundation Directors through the work of the Local Committees will have a role monitoring Collective Worship at the Academy.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Good Practice in Collective Worship

- Music playing as the children enter
- The whole school community (Children and staff) enter calmly and silently
- **TEACHERS SHOULD ABSOLUTELY NOT BE TALKING TO LINES. DIRECTING ETC.**
- A focal point: candle, picture, Christian symbols or artefact as appropriate related to the theme
- Staff participation is expected
- Story from Christianity, The Bible, true life, biographies, fiction, other faith traditions
- Christian music should form part of worship
- Drama/ Dance prepared or improvised
- Film, video, radio, Art, pictures, sculpture
- Prayer
- Silence during prayer and reflection
- Pupil involvement: taking a lead/ musical/ drama/ role play etc

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, each Academy ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the Academy are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge.

Children also attend, where possible, whole school worship in church to celebrate annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Resources

Resources for Collective Worship will be kept current and funded as necessary.