



NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy

This review: November 2023	Next review: November 2024	Statutory/non: Statutory	Lead: K Wall Assistant Headteacher
Associated documents:			
NCEA – SMSC Policy			
Links to:			
Schools & Academies - Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham (anglican.org)			

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1. Introduction

This policy has been drafted by the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness.

This policy is consistent with the school's Christian foundation and Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship and conforms with all current legislative and regulatory requirements regarding Collective Worship.

2. How this policy reflects our Christian vision

'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

2.1 Collective worship

Students participate in a daily act of worship that is inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually.

2.2 The right of withdrawal

As a Church of England school with a strong Christian ethos that underpins the whole of school life it is expected that all students desiring to study here will wish to participate fully in the collective worship that is offered.

Notwithstanding this, the legal right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship remains.

2.3 A daily act of worship

Every student in the school participates in an act of Christian worship at some point within each school day. This may be within a tutor group or year group and may be as part of an assembly or separate and specific act of collective worship [currently known as Encounter]. Collective worship may take place in any part of the school site (including HSFC).

3. Principles

1. Through the corporate worship of God the school's mission is celebrated and advanced. The Governing Body recognises that Christian collective worship is a fundamental tool in the promotion of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
2. This policy recognises Governors' commitment to creating a school environment in which a diversity of opportunities for prayer and worship are available to students and staff in addition to collective worship, for example through the wider work of the School Chaplain and chaplaincy team, and through music and art.
3. Whilst reflecting the breadth of the Anglican tradition, collective worship is consistent with the practices and doctrines of the Church of England and with the aims and objectives of the National Society (CofE) for Promoting Religious Education.
4. The principle objective is to enable all worshippers of whatever tradition, faith or world view to reach the 'threshold of worship'. To achieve this all collective worship should be imaginative, inclusive, accessible, well and thoughtfully planned, and appropriate to the students, context and occasion.
5. A variety of students, staff, visiting clergy and external organisations should be involved in the creation, organisation and leadership of worship so as to provide students with a wide experience of what constitutes Christian worship and to provide students with the opportunity to grow in confidence in the expression of their own faith. External contributors to collective worship will be provided with a copy of the collective worship policy prior to visiting the school.
6. It is expected that all staff will actively demonstrate their support for the faith tradition of the school by participating in collective worship as their duties permit.

4. Aims

The core aims of collective worship at The National Church of England Academy are to:

1. Enable students and staff to explore and celebrate the diversity found in the worship traditions of the Church of England.
2. Provide opportunities for students and staff to engage with the cycle of the Christian year and to celebrate the key Christian festivals.
3. Hold voluntary services of Holy Communion to provide all students and staff with the opportunity to be prepared to receive the Sacrament or a Blessing in accordance with their existing Church practices.
4. Help students and staff to explore and develop their own spirituality and faith in ways that respect the diversity of the school community without compromising the school's own faith tradition.
5. Encourage students to reflect upon the relevance of scripture and the doctrines and traditions of the Christian faith for their own lives, decisions, attitudes and behaviour.
6. 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 God with reverence and awe.
7. Use a wide variety of worship and music styles, methods, symbols, liturgies, vocabularies and resources to engage students as fully and as regularly as possible.
8. Through the regular use of Christian greetings and prayers, provide students with a framework of Christian devotion that they can call upon at times of need throughout their lives.
9. Reflect upon key issues of the day from a Christian perspective.
10. Reaffirm, strengthen and demonstrate core Christian values (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving).
11. Celebrate the God-given talents and gifts of each individual member of the school community acknowledging their uniqueness as people made in the image of God.
12. Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally nationally and globally.
13. Develop a sense of community within the school and foster a concern for the needs of others.

5. Responsibility

1. The Headteacher is responsible to the Governing Body to ensure that the legal requirements for collective worship are met.
2. The School Chaplain, and in their absence the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness, is responsible for overseeing the delivery of collective worship on a daily basis in partnership with staff responsible for SMSC and Christian ethos.
3. In conjunction with the Headteacher the Academy Chaplain is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities under this policy, and are trained and equipped to fulfil them.

6. Record Keeping

The Academy Chaplain, and in their absence the Assistant Headteacher for Christian Distinctiveness, will maintain records of all major acts of collective worship that take place within the school.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship will be subject to the established QA practices operating within the school.

8. Review

The collective worship policy will be reviewed annually

Collective Worship

'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

Christian Ethos

We are a Christian community, and our values are those of the Gospels. Our practices should be based on Christ's example. Christ taught us to see every person as a unique individual, of equal value in the eyes of God. Our school worship should allow every member of our community to explore their place in the world. These principles should inform all interactions between members of the community, forming the basis of all our worship, whilst allowing for the freedom of individuals' faith, beliefs and practices.

Principles

In line with The National Society's expectations of Collective worship, here at The National Academy we seek to ensure that collective worship plays a vital role in the life of our school. We aim to ensure that all participants will gain significant spiritual development as a result of their experiences. It is an expectation that all staff/students will attend, participate and lead worship activities. Our vision is that all staff and learners will derive inspiration and affirmation from worship.

Tutor Package

Collective worship plays a vital role in our tutor programme and is interwoven into all that we do. Each week the tutor groups activities are:

Tutor group fellowship - admin tasks are carried out alongside an opportunity for the tutor group to get to know each other and support each other as a small community. 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.' The weekly notices include a reflection on the thought for the week for students to engage with as a tutor group.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Thought for the day – Collective worship conducted in tutor groups. Through Thought of the Day we aim:

- To allow all students/staff to take an active role in collective worship
- To enhance the Christian ethos of the school
- To support students to develop spiritually
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the theme for the week in a small group setting
- To allow students an opportunity to lead in preparation and delivery of T4TD, increasing their engagement and student voice

Pastoral Enhancement and LORIC Sessions – sessions around topics such as diversity, mental health, LGBT, British values – these help us to live out our academy vision of 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). In line with the Vision for Education they help us to educate for wisdom, hope, dignity and community. All sessions end with a reflection based on our Christian vision and values.

Wisdom – Growing in relational wisdom, love and compassion- as Jesus grew in wisdom. (Luke 2:40)

Hope – Hope in God's future for the world. Offering forgiveness, overcoming suffering and the possibility of redemption and new life. (Isaiah 44:22)

Dignity – All are made in the image of God, and loved by God. Through the example of Jesus, all are called to live embodied, fulfilled human lives. (Genesis 1:27)

Community – Love your neighbour as yourself, Jesus embodied the centrality of relationship – through which we learn who we are and our responsibility for others. (Hebrews 10:24)

Mentoring – An opportunity for students to give and received support and for them to reflect on both their own achievements and those of others. ‘In humility value others above yourselves.’ (Philippians 2:3)

Year group Collective Worship

Students will attend an act of collective worship in their year groups once a week. These will be led by a variety of staff, students, members of the chaplaincy team and visiting speakers. It is expected that all presenters of Collective Worship will use microphones, and use the whole time provided.

Students are expected to take an active role in the planning, delivery and evaluation of Year Group Collective Worship. We expect:

- There will be a clear link to the Christian faith- bible reading, Christian values
- There will be a time of reflection/prayer time
- The act of worship will be on the theme calendared for the week

To ensure everyone arrives to collective worship as promptly as possible could Personal Tutors/Co-tutors please ensure tutor groups use the entrances of the Sports Hall as directed by their Head of Year.

Encounter: led by Chaplaincy Team

This is a focused time for quiet contemplation led by our chaplaincy team: It will take place in tutor groups. Encounter takes place in The Whiting Room or Tutor Room.

Please check the school calendar/staff bulletin for details of dates

Communion

Students will have the opportunity to take part in Holy Communion on a voluntary basis once a term.

End of Term Services

Acts of worship will be held at the end of each term. Representatives from tutor groups will be requested to prepare resources for/participate in these services as required.

Special Occasions

Students will take part in special acts of worship for special occasions. For example:

- Year 7 Welcome Service
- Year 11 Celebration Service
- Year 13 Leaving Service
- Remembrance Service

Staff collective worship

Throughout the year there will be some additional opportunities for staff only acts of worship. These are led by members of the Chaplaincy team.