



# Whitburn Church of England Academy

## Collective Worship – Policy and Quality Standard

### Preface

Whitburn Church of England Academy, in accordance with Christian principles and values, aims to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality. We strive to ensure “Excellence for All” is a reality, promoting the growth of wisdom and learning. As a Church of England Academy, we aim to develop Christian values such as kindness, forgiveness, respect and thankfulness. We value the uniqueness of each individual and support the development of a rich and fulfilling spiritual life for all of our community.

We aim to develop self-esteem, model conflict resolution, and are committed to justice and compassion. Mutual respect and trust are central to our community, and we expect high standards in all aspects of Academy life.

This policy and its associated procedures are based on these key principles and values. Formal acts of Collective Worship are required by the Education Reform Act (1988). They seek to provide a spiritual dimension to the day and have the characteristics of **contemplation, celebration and community/citizenship**. The policy applies to all year groups, including Sixth Form students.

At Whitburn Church of England Academy, we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school’s distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all students.

Acts of Collective Worship will take place in every assembly with the notices being given at the beginning, allowing pupils to leave the assembly reflecting on the content. This content will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief but need not only contain Christian material. It should lead pupils to reflect upon their daily lives, relationships and responsibilities and provide an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. All students will be given the opportunity to take a lead in Collective Worship, for example, through form class assemblies.

When students are not in formal assembly, acts of Collective Worship will take place in morning registration; students will experience an act of Collective Worship everyday unless withdrawn by parents. If parents wish, their child can be withdrawn from assemblies and religious education (RE) lessons. Withdrawn students will be given opportunities for some reflective activity that is humanitarian or non-denominational.

### Acts of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will include opportunities:

- For **Spiritual Development**.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of **Christian Beliefs**.

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the **Anglican Tradition**. (This will be a guaranteed entitlement for all students via the special assemblies scheduled on the school calendar.)

### **Collective Worship and Spiritual Development**

Will include:

- Time for quiet reflection and the exploration of inner thoughts and feelings.
- Inspirational and inclusive activities, which engage all students and provide an opportunity to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on school life.
- Celebration of significant events in students' own lives and in the context of school life and the wider community.
- Opportunities to help students understand Anglican and other Christian traditions in the UK and wider world.
- An atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity, with opportunities for prayer, reflection and stillness.
- Provision of a variety of experiences.
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- Student centred activities which build on students' experiences.
- A range of activities including music, drama and prayer.
- A calm and purposeful start to the day.
- Promote the Academy '*Be values*', supported by relevant Biblical material and Christian teaching.

### **Whitburn Be Values**

As a worshipping community, the students, staff and governors of Whitburn Church of England Academy set out our values as the Whitburn 'Be Values'. These values are used to form the majority of the Themes for the Week and are set out each year in the school calendar. Resources are provided on each theme to support form tutors with collective worship.

<b>Christian Values</b>	<b>Whitburn Be Values</b>
Compassion	Be Kind
Creation	Be Creative, Be Inspired
Endurance	Be Patient, Be Courageous
Forgiveness	Be Forgiving
Friendship	Be a Good Friend
Hope	Be Hopeful, Be Confident
Humility	Be Humble
Justice	Be Fair
Koinonia (Fellowship)	Be part of Our Community, Be Inclusive, Be a Team Player
Peace	Be Peaceful
Reverence	Be Respectful
Service	Be Helpful, Be a Light of the World
Thankfulness	Be Grateful, Be Joyful
Trust	Be Trusting
Wisdom	Be Wise, Be a Learner, Be Outstanding

## **Appendix 1**

### **Staff Guidance to Support Collective Worship and Christian Beliefs**

Collective Worship should develop an understanding of:

#### **God as Creator**

- Through encouraging a sense of awe and wonder.
- To foster a respect for the environment, the world and its peoples.

#### **Jesus**

Collective Worship should reflect:

- Major Christian festivals.
- The cycle of the Christian year.
- The life of Jesus and the Christian Church.
- Stories from the gospels providing insight into the teaching of Jesus.

#### **The Holy Spirit**

Collective Worship should include stories about individuals and organisations who have acknowledged the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The Church's commitment to supporting the poor and oppressed in the world also provides opportunities for schools to reflect on the activity of the Holy Spirit in the world today (e.g. Christian Aid Week, One World Week).

#### **The Trinity**

In reflecting this central Christian belief, through acts of Collective Worship, sensitivity should be given to the needs of pupils of other faiths. Opportunities to hear Trinitarian prayers (including those from the Celtic tradition) can help students develop an understanding of the importance of this belief for Christians. Another way of encouraging reflection on the Trinity is through an exploration of the Academy itself as a community, in terms of its relationships both within and outside the Academy. The annual Harvest Festival exemplifies this.

#### **The Bible**

Acts of Collective Worship should incorporate stories from the Bible as an aid to reflection and deeper understanding of human experience. The Anglican Church follows a liturgical calendar which specifies biblical passages for particular times of the year, and the Academy will incorporate these readings into its acts of worship as and when appropriate.

## **Collective Worship and the Anglican Tradition**

In seeking to provide acts of Collective Worship which are both distinctive and inclusive, the Academy will employ strategies that:

- Observe the major Christian Festivals and the cycles of the Anglican year: e.g. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, and acknowledging major Saints' Days
- Use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- Reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship.
- Participate in aspects of the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match, as far as possible, the student's experience in the Academy and church. There are special services, such as The Assembly of Light where new pupils are welcomed into the Academy, and there is a Year 11 Leavers' Assembly of Light in the Summer Term. Whitburn Parish Church is used to hold special assemblies for all year groups each school year.
- Identify a collection of prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages. Allow students to learn traditional responses and prayers, hymns and psalms, which might create a framework for worship within the Academy – we will use the Lord's Prayer routinely so that students become familiar with its role in the religious life of our country and the wider Anglican and Christian communion.
- Provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
- Recognise that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism, which may be expressed when members of other Churches are invited to lead worship.
- Experience the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion. This could be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend school worship. Share in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome offered to all students and the celebration of shared values and beliefs, and, in schools in which other faiths are present, ensuring that those faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity.

## Appendix 2

### Whitburn Church of England Academy Assembly Protocol

Notices will be given at the beginning of each assembly allowing students to leave the assembly reflecting on the content. This content should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but need not only contain Christian material. It should lead students to reflect upon their daily lives, relationships and responsibilities.

Formal assemblies are required by the Education Reform Act (1988). They seek to provide a spiritual dimension to the day and have the characteristics of **contemplation, celebration and community/citizenship**.

Year assemblies are led by the relevant Head of Learning, a member of SMT or the school chaplain.

#### Procedure

- Students register promptly.
- Students are escorted to the Septimus Hall, Sports Hall or Lecture Theatre by tutors.
- Marshalling, seating and dismissal of students will be under the direction of Head of Learning (HoL) and/or SMT. Students will sit as directed by their HoL
- In whole school assemblies, Year 7 to 11 students are seated in year group blocks facing the south wall of the Sports Hall. Sixth Form students are seated with staff around the perimeter of the Hall
- Tutors will remain unless directed otherwise by their HoL.
- All staff and governors are invited to attend whole school assemblies
- On dismissal, students should go promptly to lesson 1.

Collective Worship Policy and Quality Standard		
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