



Whitburn Church of England Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Preface

The Academy Vision and Values can be found here:

<https://www.whitburncofeacademy.org/about-us/academy-ethos.html>

This policy and its associated procedures are based on these key principles and values.

Introduction

Collective Worship plays a central role in the life of our school community and is an expression of our Christian Vision as a Church of England Academy. This policy and its associated procedures aim to exemplify the Academy's Christian Vision of 'Excellence for All'. We are committed to offering high quality Collective Worship, as required by the Education Reform Act (1988). Our approach to Collective Worship aims to meet the needs of all members of our school community, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief, by providing opportunities to encounter faith in an 'inclusive, invitation and inspiring'¹ manner, welcoming people of all faiths and none.

Whilst worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'²; as a Church School, our Collective Worship also aims to reflect the Anglican status of the Academy, as expressed in its trust deed, by building on the lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity around the world.

This policy applies to all year groups, including Sixth Form students.

Provision

Students have the opportunity to take part in an act of Collective Worship each day. This takes place either in tutor time, in year groups, key stages or as a whole school community. All students are also given the opportunity to take a lead in Collective Worship, for example, through leading 'Thought for the Week' in form time, or by leading year group Worship Assemblies with their tutor group.

Our Collective Worship is characterised by opportunities for quiet prayer, stillness and reflection, as well as helping students to consider how they might pursue their God-given potential and use their gifts to serve others in the communities in which they find themselves (John 10:10). Consequently, Collective Worship plays a central role in fostering our strong sense of community; it also makes an important contribution to the aspiration, achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all our students.

¹ The Church of England Education Office, *Collective Worship in Church of England Schools - Guidance Document: Inclusive, invitational, Inspiring*; D Holloway (March 2021) This policy closely references this document throughout. [Collective Worship Guidance 18052021.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](#)

² *Education Reform Act 1988 section 7(1) and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993*

The Right of Withdrawal

Parents/carers may request that their child be withdrawn from Collective Worship. Sixth Form students who are over the age of 18 have the right to withdraw themselves.

‘Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring’

Our Worship is ‘collective’ in that it involves meeting together as a community and having an opportunity for stillness, reflection and, for some, prayer - in an otherwise busy working environment. Our worship does not assume faith, but offers opportunities for all members of our school community to think, to ask questions, to reflect and the space to pray if they wish to. Care is taken to ensure that the language used is accessible, does not assume faith, and is warmly welcoming.

The metaphor of ‘warm fires and open doors’³ illustrates this well. During Collective Worship, the door is open and all are welcomed in. Each person can choose to sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable.

Our Collective Worship also aims to be ‘formational and transformational’⁴, encouraging students and adults alike to ask big questions, and to motivate them into thinking reflectively and acting differently. Our aim is to motivate students to become courageous advocates for change in their local communities, and in the wider world.

Aims and Objectives (with reference to SIAMS Strand 6)⁵

Our Collective Worship explores the Academy’s Christian Vision through our community’s shared ‘Be Values’, which were chosen by the students themselves. These values also aim to develop character and contribute to academic progress.



³ Speech by David Thomson, Bishop of Huntingdon 2014 quoted in *The Fruits of the Spirit: A Church of England Discussion Paper on Character Education* (The Church of England Education Office 2015) Page 13

⁴ *Collective Worship in Church of England Schools - Guidance Document: Inclusive, invitational, Inspiring;* Page 3

⁵ [SIAMS Evaluation Schedule \(Revised September 2021\)](#)

Our Collective Worship aims to:

- Help students and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all students and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals
- Enable students to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.⁶

Theme of the Week

Our 'Be Values' are used to inform the Themes for the Week, which are set out each year in the school calendar. Interactive, multimedia PowerPoint resources are written and provided by the Collective Worship Coordinator on each weekly theme, to support form tutors with leading collective worship.

*Please see **Appendix 1** for an exemplar Collective Worship Calendar.*

Worship Assemblies

Further similar weekly resources are also produced alongside the Theme of the Week for Heads of Learning and Pastoral Leads, to support them in delivering year group Worship Assemblies.

Throughout the year, Special Whole School and Key Stage Worship Assemblies mark seasons in the Church calendar; dates are as closely aligned with the Church calendar as possible, within the constraints of term time. These Worship Assemblies are kindly attended by Governors, some members of the local Parish Church congregation and, when possible, the Priest-in-Charge of Whitburn Parish Church.

Further Collective Worship events happen at key points during the academic year, such as our Y7 and Y11 Assemblies of Light, the Carol Service, and year group Church services that are held at Whitburn Parish Church.

⁶ [SIAMS Evaluation Schedule \(Revised September 2021\)](#)

Developing Staff Expertise

There is a named member of staff in charge of Coordinating Collective Worship.

Staff in charge of coordinating Collective Worship have access to training and advice through the local Diocesan Joint Education Team.

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for providing training, support and guidance to the wider staff of the Academy concerning the delivery of Collective Worship.

Governance

There is a named member of the governing body who is linked to the Collective Worship Coordinator, and this person is normally a representative from the local Parish Council.

Appendix 1 (Exemplar)

Collective Worship Overview: 2021-22

Week beginning	Theme of the Week	Whole School Worship Assembly	Key Stage / Year Group Worship Assembly	NB
6 Sep				Students from Wed 8 th Remembering 9/11
13 Sep	Be Respectful	Welcome to our Community (Mon 13 th)	Y7 Assembly of Light (Fri 17 th)	
20 Sep	Be Helpful			European Day of Languages – Sun 26 th
27 Sep	Be a Learner			
4 Oct	Be Fair			World Mental Health Day – Sun 10 th
11 Oct	Be Kind	Harvest Worship (Fri 15 th)		Interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace (10 th -17 th)
18 Oct	Celebrating Racial Diversity			October is Black History Month
Half Term				
1 Nov	Integrity			1 st All Saints' Day Diwali 4 th
8 Nov	Remembering	Remembrance (Thurs 11 th)		Remembrance Sunday 14 th Nov
15 Nov	Valuing One Another			Anti-Bullying Week (15 th -19 th)
22 Nov	Be a Peacemaker			Advent Sunday 28 th Nov Hanukkah 28 th - 6 th
29 Nov	Advent	Advent Worship (Wed 1 st)		St Andrew's Day 30 th
6 Dec	Patience			Human Rights Day 10 th
13 Dec	Light of the World	Carol Service (Thurs 16 th) Christmas Worship (Fri 17 th – c.12.00)		
Christmas Holiday				
3 Jan	Hope	Epiphany Worship (Thurs 6 th)		Epiphany 6 th
10 Jan	Perseverance			
17 Jan	Joy			
24 Jan	Freedom	Holocaust Memorial (Thurs 27 th)		Holocaust Memorial Day 27 th
31 Jan	The Power of Words			Candlemas 2 nd
7 Feb	A Thankful Heart			Internet Safety Day 8 th
14 Feb	Love One Another			Valentine's Day 14 th

Half Term				
28 Feb	Humility	Lent Worship (Wed 2nd)		Ash Wednesday 2 nd Mar
7 Mar	Justice			Fairtrade Fortnight 21 st - 8 th St David's Day 1 st
14 Mar	Resolving Conflict			
21 Mar	Servant Leadership			
28 Mar	Encouraging Others			Ramadan begins 1 st Apr
4 Apr	Easter: Forgiveness and Hope	Holy Week Easter Worship (9am Fri 8th)		
Easter Holiday				
25 Apr	Facing Life's Challenges	Facing Life's Challenges (Mon 25th)		Eid-ul-Fitr c. 30 th Apr
2 May	Be a Good Listener			2 nd -8 th May Deaf Awareness Week
9 May	Resilience		Year 11 Assembly of Light (Fri 13th May)	
16 May	Generosity			Christian Aid Week 15 th -21 st May
23 May	Use Your Gifts		Pentecost Worship (Key Stages) TBC	Pentecost Sunday 5 th June
Half Term				
6 Jun	Stewardship			World Environment Day 5 th June
13 Jun	Be Forgiving			
20 Jun	Different Pasts, Shared Future			Refugee Week 20 th -26 th
27 Jun	Creativity			
4 Jul	Courage			
11 Jul	Celebrating Achievement			
18 Jul	Be a Team Player	End of Year Worship (Fri 22nd)		

Year Group Worship Assemblies	
Monday	Y11
Tuesday	Y10
Wednesday	Y9 & Sixth
Form	
Thursday	Y8
Friday	Y7

Collective Worship Policy		
Creation Date	Version	Status
November 2006	1.0	Approved by the Governing Body
Revision Date		
24 th November 2009	2.0	Approved by the Governing Body
1 st February 2011	3.0	Approved by the Governing Body
22 nd May 2012	4.0	Approved by the Governing Body
8 th October 2013	5.0	Approved by the Governing Body
7 th October 2014	6.0	Approved by the Governing Body
3 rd October 2017	7.0	Approved by the Governing Body
19 th March 2019	8.0	Approved by the Governing Body
23 rd March 2022	9.0	Governing Body requested further tweaks to be made
17 th May 2022	9.0	Approved by the Governing Body