

The Frances Bardsley Academy

Collective Worship Policy



This document was accepted and ratified by the Local Governing Body on:
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Review date: Jan 2023

Person responsible: Miss E Darabasz

Policy Introduction and Overview

Collective Worship can both reinforce and contribute to the ethos of the school, in addition to providing a unique occasion to allow for reflection within the school day that is outside of the demands of the curriculum.

Our commitment to equality and statutory compliance

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'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. 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. This Policy is also guided by the Collective Worship in Schools document published by the DfE in 1994.

Aims and Objectives

It is our aim at Frances Bardsley Academy that worship should:-

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the social and emotional aspects of pupils learning (SEAL)
- Promote community and social cohesion
- Help students to develop religious tolerance and self-awareness
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow for reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members with opportunities to develop their spiritual dimension
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- Help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Policy Content

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

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 this school we mean that:-

- Worship contains some elements which 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 key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Frances Bardsley Academy take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. Owing to this we encourage the celebration of other faiths within the academy's community and these may form part of an Act of Collective Worship. We also recognise that some members of our community do not have a religion as such and this will also be considered when planning and delivering Acts of Collective Worship.

The academy recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. 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 data projector Powerpoint etc, moment of silence or reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Frances Bardsley Academy we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

Students over the age of 16 are able to withdraw themselves from worship; this request should also be made in writing.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students under 16 withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Frances Bardsley Academy.

Organisation

Acts of collective worship in the Main Hall and Rose Gaughan Theatre are normally led by SLT, Progress Managers but may also be led by tutors, students or speakers.

On those days when a tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is assumed that the form tutor will follow the weekly tutor time programme which includes our PSHCEE programme as well as allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas she has heard during Collective Worship that week.

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.

The assembly calendar outlines a weekly theme for Collective Worship that is linked to our Personal Development characteristics. These are published at the beginning of the year. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are based on the Academy's values and are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of each half-term the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

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

Each person leading worship is asked to plan their act of worship.

The designated area (Wellspring) in the academy can also be used for collective worship of a formal and informal nature. Those wishing to use this space should ensure that the booking system set out by the academy is followed.

The school seeks to involve students in the evaluation of collective worship. Members of the School Council regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these to the School Council. Feedback from year reviews which include form and assembly observations and interviews with students are also used in the process of evaluation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Head of Ethos and Culture, Gemma McGrath who is overseen by the Head of School, Emilie Darabasz. An assembly calendar is agreed and published before the start of each year and is shared with all staff

Monitoring and Review

The Collective Worship programme has been designed in the recognition that we live in an increasingly multi faith and multi ethnic society and as such it must respond to the needs of students and reflect the values of the school and its community. Crucial to any effective teaching programme is the need for constant evaluation of its aims, methods and materials. The assembly and collective worship programme is monitored by the Head of Ethos and Culture and Head of School.

Expected Impact and Outcomes

Students will take part in regular acts of Collective Worship and be given the opportunity to reflect on a range of issues that affect local, national and global life. Collective Worship will be open to those from all faiths and none.

Key Supporting Documents

Collective Worship in Schools published by the DfE (1994)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>