

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY	
Policy Ref:	Educ006
Status	
Purpose	
Committees	
Other linked policies	Safeguarding,
Issue Date	November 2017
Review Date	September 2020

Introduction

1. At Discovery Academy we are obliged to follow the requirements of the Trust Funding Agreement in connection with collective worship.
2. We also ensure that our worship reflects both the spirit of school worship as intended by recent legislation and the multicultural nature of our borough and Academy. Our approach is consistent with local authority policy on school worship.

Statutory Duty of the Academy

3. The Trust and the Academy policy mirrors the policy for maintained schools within Thameside MBC: where the Academy provides daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.
4. The Associate Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
5. All parents have a right to withdraw their child from the Academy's daily act of worship, and/or religious education. If you wish to withdraw your child from these parts of Academy life please write to the Associate Principal or make an appointment.
6. The aims and values of the Academy form the basis of this policy
 - Discovering – Seeking opportunities to expand knowledge and experience;
 - Inspiring – Encouraging all to be as creative and motivating as possible;
 - Caring – Providing support and guidance for the whole school community;
 - Improving – Striving to better ourselves at all times; and
 - Achieving – Teaching to attain aspirational targets.

Aims of Collective Worship

7. Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Academy and to the development of our pupils:
 - To make explicit the Academy's aims and values.
 - To provide an opportunity for pupils to develop an ability to use reflection, contemplation and as appropriate prayer.
 - To encourage and deepen pupils spiritual development through heightening awareness of their own inner life.
 - To encourage pupils appreciation of their own personal worth and value.
 - To offer opportunities to consider and reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
 - To raise awareness of the diversity of worship within societies and cultures.
 - To celebrate achievements, special occasions, difference and diversity.

Implementation

8. At the academy we value the qualities of honesty, personal integrity and respect for others with different views. It is important that our language reflects this diversity.

9. Christianity should not be presented as what the whole academy community believes but as what Christians, which make up some of the school community believe.
10. Prayer should be prefaced with inclusive language e.g. there is a prayer.....some of you may like to join in - others may simply want to think about the words used.
11. Similarly, moments of silence can provide pupils with the opportunity and chance to pray or reflect.
 - Timing: Approximately 9:00 – 9:15 am daily other than special occasions and class assemblies.
 - Planning: The planning of Acts of Collective Worship will be co-ordinated by the Associate Principal.
 - Recording: Acts of Collective Worship will be recorded by the person leading the activity.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

12. The Academy will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. Governors will contribute to this review through visits to assemblies.
13. Our acts of Collective Worship are seen as part of our balanced and broad-based curriculum. They provide opportunities for children to understand the language and nature of worship and explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others, whilst providing the opportunity to celebrate values and worth of the Academy community.
14. Parents do have the right to withdraw children from Acts of Collective Worship but given the inclusive and diverse nature of the activity we do not anticipate requests.
15. Parents with concerns are invited to discuss the matter with the Associate Principal. Staff also have the right to withdraw.