



Let Your Light Shine
Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy, Implementation and Procedures
This policy sits alongside the Developing Spirituality Policy
The policy can be found on the Team drive: policies: non-curricular policies, Collective Worship
Policy Reviewed and Ratified with/without change by: Full Governing Board July 2025
Cycle of Policy Review: Annual

Background

All church schools are required to hold a daily Collective Worship. As a church school this is an important time for everyone to gather and reflect as a community on the Academy's shared vision and values and to celebrate the role of the church and its teachings in supporting them.

Whilst Collective Worship does not count as curriculum time, it makes a valuable contribution to the Academy's aims and values and enhances its caring family atmosphere in keeping with the ethos of a church school.

Purpose

- To ensure that the Academy uses Collective Worship in ways which fulfil its obligations as a church school to develop the moral and spiritual growth of children and adults through Christian teachings
- To ensure the Academy meets its obligations to design and deliver Collective Worship in a manner which is inclusive, inspirational and invitational

Scope

This policy includes all adults and children in our Church School Family, including parents, carers and governors.

POLICY

Collective Worship will, at all times, reflect the Academy's vision:
Let your light shine, Matthew 5: v16

All the Academy's pupils and staff will take part in an act of Collective Worship on each school day. They will gather together as a whole school four times a week and once a week for Class Worship.

Collective Worship will take place on the school premises and on special occasions in church.

Most acts of Collective Worship will be denominational and reflect the Anglican character of our school. Most acts of Collective Worship in any one term will therefore reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and individual acts that fulfil this may wholly or mainly reflect these traditions.

Collective Worship at Ellison Boulton is inclusive: everybody is welcome.

Parents and carers may request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. It is also possible for parents and carers to request that the school arrange for other forms of worship. Where possible the school will seek to arrange this.

The Academy takes the themes of its Collective Worship from its six values, one of which is prioritised in each half term. Stories from the Christian faith and other fables and morality stories from around the world are used to provide examples and open discussion around the principle value of the term. In Collective Worship children reflect on the teachings of the Christian church and the events of the Christian calendar. These will contribute to the pupils' development by broadening and deepening their spiritual experience and understanding.

Our Act of Worship will:

"Provide opportunities for pupils to worship God to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs, to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit promoting a common ethos and shared values, and re-enforce positive attitudes." (Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship).

Participating in the act of Collective Worship is invitational. All children will be present unless alternative arrangements are made by parents/carers, and there is an expectation that children who are not participating, for example in a prayer or hymn, will be respectful to those that are.

The Collective Worship delivered by the Academy will be designed to be inspirational and to:

- enhance the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) provision for children, particularly to:
 - enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
 - enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law
 - encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely
- provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- develop in children a sense of community spirit
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- teach children how to worship
- promote racial harmony & respect for all, combating prejudice & discrimination

Experiences that reflect the Anglican character of The Academy include:

- reflection upon and growing understanding of Christian symbols and their use in worship
- reflection and reference to the Holy Trinity; God the father, God the son and God the holy spirit
- the cross and crucifix as symbols used in church and school, leading to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection
- recognising that the Anglican church has a strong commitment to promoting unity among the world's Christian Churches demonstrated through invitation to members of other churches to lead worship
- the opportunity to discover the value of silence within the context of Christian worship
- the cycle of the Anglican year, with Lent, Advent and Festival days as well as Easter and Christmas, can provide the framework for a changing pattern of school worship

- the bond of community which encompasses the Protected Characteristics
- the candle liturgy to mark the opening and closing of the worship
- singing songs of praise
- praying together

The Academy provides all children in the community with the opportunity to lead or take part in the Collective Worship.

The Academy's Act of worship:

- is a celebration of the shared values within the school community
- reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community
- is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school

The Governing Body, following discussion with the Head Teacher, determine the character and content of Collective Worship. Daily planning within this framework will be the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Collective Worship Lead in collaboration with local clergy.

Any changes to this policy will be brought to the attention of the Governing Body for ratification.

Implementation and Procedures

Our school values are:

Friendship, Honesty, Happiness, Understanding, Respect and Responsibility. One value will be the principle focus of whole school Monday Collective Worship each week and will explore the value in different ways.

Our Act of Worship develops a clear sense of values and beliefs and promote respect for and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices. The values will form the basis of themes for Collective Worship, and will be supported through other daily routines (e.g. display, marble in the jar). Activities during Collective Worship may include: singing, praying, dancing, performing a play, music, poetry, silence, discussion, listening, visitor presentation, and other activities as appropriate.

Collective worship will give children the opportunity to participate by sharing their achievements in academic work, sport, music, literature, visibly upholding the Academy's values. This will include class participation in class assemblies.

British Values and Protected Characteristics

Understanding of British values and protected characteristics will also be developed in Collective Worship underpinned by our school values.

Let Your Light Shine

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes, for example through Achievers or Class Assemblies. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

On these occasions, individuals are noticed not only for letting their own light shine but also for living out the Academy's school values, supporting others to shine, sharing their light to inspire others and for their contribution to the community.

We invite parents and carers to worship on special occasions and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

This policy will be supported by a clearly defined plan for the year, with each term having a particular focus. In addition, reference may be made to appropriate seasons and festivals. The church school year and seasons will be recognised in school. However, it will remain flexible to enable our worship to cover any incidental events.

Resources and Staff Development

A bank of resources will be held in school. These will be updated on a regular basis.

A usual week will include:

Monday: Whole school values Collective Worship

Tuesday: Practice singing hymns and songs of worship

Wednesday: Class Worship

Thursday: Visiting Speakers or British Values or Protective Characteristic Collective Worship

Friday: Achievers' Assembly/Class Assembly

Monitoring

The yearly plan will be monitored by the Head Teacher & Collective Worship Lead to ensure that the planned content is being covered.

A member of staff will monitor Collective Worship on a regular basis, this will be recorded in the Collective Worship monitoring record book stored on the altar in the front entrance. This record will be monitored by the Collective Worship Lead and/or the Head Teacher on a regular basis. A similar record will be kept by a child for every whole school Collective Worship and for Class Worship

Staff Development will be provided as and when relevant courses become available, and as the need arises.

