



Queens Church of England Academy

Learning and Growing in the Love of God

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by the Leadership team

September 2021

Approved by full governing body:

October 2021

Signed Chair of Governors:

To be reviewed:

September 2023





Worship at our Academy

As well as it being a legal requirement that all registered Academy age pupils take part in an act of worship each day, Queens Academy views Collective Worship as an essential tool to develop both children and staff's spirituality. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

Our worship is in accordance with our Diocese Multi-Academy Trust Deed and therefore reflects the tradition of the Church of England. Worship is at the heart of our Academy and reflects some of the features of Christian prayer and worship. Whole school worship follows the following format:

Monday	2:30pm	Whole School Celebration Assembly	Headteacher
Tuesday	10:45am	Singing Collective Worship	Deputy Headteacher/Music Lead
Wednesday	10:45am	Whole School Collective Worship	Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher
Thursday	In class		
Friday	10:45am	Whole School Collective Worship	Teacher/Class Led

Once a week collective worship happens in class and they provide reflective opportunities for the children based on a theme for that half term or what they have learned in the previous collective worship. In the summer term, collective worship may be taken outside.

Vision, Values and Aims

We believe that worship both supports and strengthens our Christian Vision of 'Love in Action', our Christian Cultures (See start of Policy) and our Curriculum drivers of opportunity, aspiration and respect. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, socially, culturally, morally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- learn how our Christian Vision, culture and values are rooted in the teachings of the bible.
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and as members of groups within the school and the wider community
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations.
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings and beliefs.
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- respond freely to religious and / or spiritual stimulus.
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- Become aware of opportunities and rights they have to take up causes they are passionate about

Objectives

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage our pupils to:

- learn stories from the bible.
- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- celebrate special occasions together.
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- learn about some of the elements of our Anglican heritage.
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn.

Planning

Our Collective worships over the year are driven by events in the calendar as well as responding to the needs of our school community. Collective Worship are planned half termly with the aim of gradually developing a particular theme or idea (e.g. Christian Mystics, Courageous Advocacy or understanding our School Christian Vision). We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning. However, we also respond to local situations and need, both within the Academy and outside. We aim to use a range of resources and materials appropriate to the pupil's ages and stages of development. Staff are expected to produce a supporting PowerPoint as evidence of planning and this collated by the subject leader. The Subject leader produces, along with local members of

clergy, a half termly overview of Collective Worships that will focus on topical and religious issues.

Regularly, we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We choose from a range of methods, including:

- sacred and secular stories / readings
- dance / drama
- prayer / meditation / songs / hymns / music
- artefacts / natural materials
- visual aids / focal points
- dialogue / creative silence
- visitors
- visits to St. Mary's church termly.

Consultation

The subject leader, Senior Leadership Team together with the incumbent of St Mary's parish church, (currently Interregnum (Sep 21)), are responsible for planning the themes for worship. Children will also participate in the planning and delivery of worship.

Success Criteria

At this Academy we will evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- the purpose and the theme of the worship being clear to all those present
- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- an atmosphere which matches the theme
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community offering a contribution to the spiritual development of individuals, pupils/adults
- providing something to think about and take into the life of the Academy
- a sense of occasion
- staff being present and taking part
- a sense of challenge

Song / Music

Song / music is a very powerful means of creating a worshipful atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the Academy community. We aim to create a balance of music, speech and silence. We aim to choose songs or hymns with a particular focus on the Christian faith that are appropriate for the pupils and the theme. Pupils regularly choose the hymns for worship times. Songs learnt in Collective Worship will also be sung in church.

Prayer

We feel prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which provide children with the opportunity to participate if / when they so desire. The use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish. We do ask that all children are respectful during prayers using the model that Jesus taught

in the bible when teaching his disciples the Lord's prayer. Our school prayer helps children define the positive aspects of our school as well as giving them a clear frame to follow.

Diversity

All staff members are expected to participate in and lead worship whether in class or whole school. We understand that some children who attend Queens C of E Academy come from a different religious background. We respect the traditions of other faiths and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity.

The rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Any parent who wishes this may consult the Head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

The RE subject leader, Senior Leadership team, School Governors and Abbey Church clergy are responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of teaching in religious education. The subject leader uses specially allocated regular management time to review evidence of the children's work, to observe RE lessons and the learning environment and to speak to the children, across the school. The RE subject leader reports to the governing body, completes an annual audit and prepares an action plan.

Evaluation of Collective Worship is carried out from 4 separate points of view; children, teachers, SLT and Governors or Clergy. Children evaluate collective worships regularly using a proforma created by the School Visionaries. Governors or Clergy are invited to monitor Collective Worship at least half termly and SLT carry out termly monitoring of class based collective worships.

This policy will be reviewed no less than every two years.

