



Cornerstone Multi Academy Trust

Collective Worship Policy

Cornerstone Academy Trust

Introduction

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, there is an act of collective worship across the Trust every day. Collective worship may be organised by whole Trust, phase, year group or class. The Collective Worship policy reflects the consensus of the Trust and has been drawn up in consultation with the staff across its schools. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of all staff and will be monitored by the Trust's leadership team. By providing different levels of interest and involvement, all children will feel included, whatever their beliefs or background.

Content

Taken over a school term, the majority of acts of collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief. Acts of collective worship are appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of our children. The collective worship contributes to students' development in providing opportunities for:

- Spiritual development: deciding on the value, purpose and meaning of life.
- Moral development: reflecting on matters concerning right and wrong.
- Social development: encouraging students to relate positively to each other, to take responsibility and to participate fully in the community.
- Cultural development: appreciating their own cultural traditions and the teachings of other cultures.

Other issues which might be covered include being healthy, being safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, economic wellbeing, inclusion and community cohesion. In planning collective acts of worship, we focus on the following activities: singing, readings and storytelling, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting speakers and cooking.

Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for students to:

- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values;

- develop a sense of being part of the wider community and celebrate difference and diversity;
- celebrate achievements and special occasions related to individuals, the school and the wider community;
- provide assemblies that are appropriate to the family backgrounds, age and aptitude of students and which reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief;
- directly acknowledge significant religious events of major world religions.
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- consider spiritual, moral social and cultural issues;
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
- provide an opportunity for grieving at times of sadness or sorrow;
- experience stillness and quiet times for personal reflection.

During times of restrictions due to COVID-19, all assemblies will be virtual and class based.

Teachers will work around the current timetables to incorporate times to worship together. This will be using the same resources that would have been used within class assemblies. Resources are available from SingUp, Charanga, Sharepoint and other curriculum sites. Collective worship takes place daily and every year group has time allocated to do so. This is usually from 09:10-09:30.

At lunchtime, the children come to the hall in sittings to eat their lunch. When everyone is sat down the teacher leads the children in saying grace. This is used as way to signal the start of the children's lunchtime. Saying grace helps with their social development and encourages the students to relate positively to one another. When grace is said, it is broadly non-denominational and is used to thank others for their contributions. Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from any form of collective worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. Requests to withdraw children must be made in writing, and discussed with the Head of School, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Visitors

Any visitors conducting collective worship will be accompanied by members of school staff at all times. Visitors will be informed of our school's policy for collective worship and must conduct themselves in a manner which reflects and supports this policy.

Updated: January 2022
Review: September 2025

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from any form of collective worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parents will be offered an opportunity to discuss the nature and role of collective worship in the life of our school. Requests to withdraw children must be made in writing, and discussed with the Head of School, so that alternative arrangements can be made.