



St Mark's C of E Academy Policy

| Policy Title | Collective Worship Policy | Version No | 1 |
|-------------------------|--|------------|---|
| Rationale | <p>St Marks Church of England Academy Is an Academy which shares it s sponsorship with the Council for British Teachers (CFBT) and the Church Of England, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE). Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as an Academy community to celebrate our uniqueness and recognise that we all have something of value to contribute to our community. Collective worship is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.</p> <p>At St Marks Academy we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.</p> | | |
| Policy Statement | <p>It is our aim at St Marks Academy is that worship should:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.• provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.• Support the social and emotional aspects of pupils learning (SEAL)• Promote community cohesion• give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community• allow 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 of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet• provide members of the school community with the opportunity 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.• to 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. | | |

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the Academy.

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'. 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 through the tutor programme. 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'. 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 St Marks Academy take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school 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 OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Marks Academy we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from 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.

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

Organisation e.g.

- House assemblies take place on a Monday to Thursday.

- Fridays can be used for additional assemblies for year group or have events.

On those days when a house is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is expected that the house coach will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the coaching group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard 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.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the year and a reminder is included in the weekly bulletin. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Coaches will re-enforce this in reflections in house time. The themes chosen 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 the week 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 on a simple proforma. These include a space for evaluation. These planning sheets should be placed in the file in the staff room when completed as this then forms the Academy record of worship.

A Collective Worship working party meets once a term led by the Principal. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to look at developing collective worship within the life of the Academy.

The Academy seeks to involve students in the evaluation of collective worship. Members of the Academy Council regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these to the schools council and/or the worship committee.

A named governor has a role monitoring Collective worship at the Academy.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator. The school has a budget of £ 500 to develop these resources.

Procedure for Acts of Collective Worship.

The Leadership of each Act of collective worship is the responsibility of the

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Head of House. An annual rota is in place at the start of each Academic year indicating themes for each week and identifying who will lead the act of collective worship.</p> <p>Arrival at the Assembly Hall.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each coach will lead their group to the Assembly hall and ensure that the group is lined up in silence. Outdoor coats must be removed and students should be in full uniform. b. The Line manager positions themselves at the entrance door to ensure an orderly entrance. The Head of House stands in the centre to ensure orderly seating. c. All students should enter the assembly hall in silence. d. On entry reflective music should be playing, this can be Christian based or other suitable material. e. The Head of House should signal the start of assembly by giving of any notices. The assembly should then be handed over to the person leading the act of collective worship for that day. f. The act of collective worship should always be finished with a prayer. g. Lighting of the candle may be used as a point of reflection in part of the collective worship. <p>Use of the House time for Acts of Collective Worship.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thoughts for the week are published each week on the bulletin and circulated to staff via e-mail. |
|--|---|

| | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Staff Responsible | | EHO | |
| School Group Responsible | | Full Governing Body | |
| Date approved by Governing body | September 2009 | Review Date | September 2010 |