



Collective Worship Policy

This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices*. (For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the *Appendices* – see the individual academy website).

September 2020
Date for Next Revision – September 2021

Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 1*.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an academy has chosen. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Appendix 1

Name of Academy: Oundle CE Primary School

Academy specific details

...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Oundle CE Primary School collective worship is central to our life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in a largely contemporary Christian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way.

We tell pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection.

We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way.

We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching.

We invite them to participate in prayer and songs.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

The Headteacher, assistant heads and other members of staff conduct collective worship but usually on Tuesdays, a member of the St Peter's Church team leads. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between OPS and the local church. Parents / carers are invited to Friday collective worship and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This develops and promotes the community spirit of OPS. We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of the day.

Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (e.g. Monthly Family Services, Christingle, and end of year services in St Peter's Church Church).

Content

The values we have chosen as a school are Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope, Koinonia and Trust.

A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs / music used. We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of OPS, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Resources

The following is a comprehensive, but not exclusive list of resources we may use in OPS for Collective Worship...

- The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with pupils.
- Roots and fruits resource by IMAGINOR
- iPOP, an on line supportive resource
- Picture News, for issues of national and global significance
- The “Values for Life” folder from Jumping Fish is also used as source material.
- The 12 Baskets (a Teachers’ Dozen) books are used by teachers to match the SEAL themes to the school’s values.

All are kept in a cupboard in the HT office.

Song words and PowerPoints are kept electronically on the staff drive.

Useful websites to be used include:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.imaginer.co.uk

A cord of three strands is not easily broken