

## Collective Worship Policy

**Review Date:** May 2027

**Review By:** Chaplain and Ordained Chaplaincy Advisors

**Final Approval:** Senior Leadership Team

### Academy Context

The Core Values of the academy which relate specifically to this policy state that we are working together to form relationships based on

- **Faith** - everyone is invited to develop their understanding of Christian belief, worship and lifestyle.
- **Justice** - everyone is entitled to be treated fairly and to promote the self-esteem of others.
- **Responsibility** - everyone is expected to understand the consequences of their actions.
- **Truth** - everyone is required to be honest and to communicate in a positive manner.
- **Compassion** - everyone is encouraged to be generous in their concern for others.

These values underpin 'Our Intent', and our vision to Unlock Unique Potential.

### Data Protection

Any personal data processed in the delivery of this policy will be processed in accordance with the academy Data Protection policy.

### Introduction

#### **Unlocking doors; welcoming in (Appendix A)**

Collective worship contributes significantly to our unique ethos as a Church of England academy. Symbolically it takes place at the start of the day, setting the tone for all that lies ahead. It will incorporate opportunities to be still, to reflect, to celebrate and to worship in various inclusive ways. Above all, it is an opportunity to give thanks and praise to God.

Well-crafted presentations can play a powerful part in students' personal development, spiritual growth, understanding of Anglican traditions and engaging with our vision and core values. Collective worship is a spiritual, moral, social and cultural expression of what it means to be an individual and a member of a faith school community.

This policy should be read in conjunction with

- the Church of England's education vision: 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good'<sup>1</sup>,
- the Academy's Theological Underpinning document and
- the SIAMS inspection framework.

### Policy

In respect of collective worship, Bishop Stopford School will

- Ensure Church of England expectations are upheld and be distinctively Christian
- Ensure parents are informed of the right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspirational (Appendix A)
- Ensure that acts of worship are age appropriate

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<sup>1</sup> [Education and Schools | The Church of England](#)

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- Include stillness and silence
- Ensure attentiveness

## **Responsibilities**

### **All**

- To respect the requirement for collective worship in this Church of England academy
- To undertake CPD as required in relation to collective worship

### **Chaplain**

- To organise the collective worship timetable, speakers and themes
- To engage with faith leaders to contribute to collective worship
- To ensure students are at the heart of collective worship
- To lead acts of collective worship
- To evaluate collective worship
- To work with Ordained Chaplaincy Advisors and governors to ensure the policy is enacted

### **Pastoral Team**

- To front assemblies and collective worship and uphold its central importance
- To contribute to delivery and evaluation
- To promote understanding of collective worship in year groups and tutor groups
- To ensure acts of worship in form time are given due time, planning and respect

### **Ordained Chaplaincy Advisors**

- To advise on the delivery of collective worship
- To contribute to review and evaluation
- To lead collective worship
- To provide training for the Chaplain and other members of the school community as appropriate

### **Senior Leadership Team**

- To lead collective worship
- To attend collective worship led by others
- To contribute to review and development of collective worship
- To interact with Ordained Chaplaincy Advisors and governors in respect of this policy
- To consider provision for students of other faiths
- To approve policy
- To ensure policy is adhered to

## Appendix A Practices

It is helpful to see collective worship metaphorically as a roaring log fire in a room with an open: people are invited in and welcome to come as close to the fire as they desire. Invitation is given to engage or to respond in private as well as public. In collective worship, participants are challenged to think for themselves. The teachings of the Bible, and of Christ and about Christ and prayer are explicit.

1. Collective worship must be '**distinctively Christian**'. The act of worship will incorporate explicitly Christian elements. This could be prayer, reflective hymns or worship music, a Bible passage, or a focus on the school's Bible verse (Micah 6:8). *If the leader is not comfortable with delivering these elements, they can invite a student to lead, or ask the Chaplain to arrange this for them.*
2. Stillness and Silence: the act of worship will begin and end with students entering and leaving in silence. Heads of Year and form tutors will manage the arrival of students and their conduct. (The person leading collective worship may choose to use a video or music to support this phase to ensure a time of meaningful personal reflection.)
3. Attentiveness: staff are role models to students throughout: full attention is expected.
4. Collective worship length: 12-15 minutes
5. Audibility: different venues are used for assemblies. Where necessary, microphones will be used to ensure content is accessible for all.

### Inspirational

- Encourage a sense of expectancy and awe.
- Speak positively about collective worship so that students look forward to its challenge of thinking ideas through for themselves.
- Include real life stories.
- Vary methods to aid focus: the arts, images, drama, short films, active opportunities.

### Invitational

- Promote the understanding that the Christian faith is relevant today and to individuals personally.
- Involve students in preparing and participating and delivering assemblies.
- Invite those attending to reflect for themselves.
- Ask questions: rhetorical or otherwise.
- Invite feedback.
- Signpost opportunities for follow-up and deeper exploration.

### Inclusive

- Ensure that everyone is considered in the preparation of collective worship, and particularly those with protected characteristics through choice of resources and content.
- Be culturally sensitive and humble.
- Takes account of feedback from a range of students (eg age, gender, ethnicity, faith) in designing collective worship.

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## Appendix B

### Collective Worship Schedule

<b>Monday</b>	Year 11 - Main Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 10 - Main Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 8 & 9 - Sports Hall
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 7 - Main Hall
<b>Friday</b>	Year 12 & 13 - Sports Hall