



MARISH
Academy Trust



Collective Worship Policy

Version 5.0

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Rationale

The Collective Worship Policy at Marish Academy Trust pays due regard to statutory requirements. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

Acts of collective worship and assemblies are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship is a specific time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils time to make a spiritual response in the quiet of their own hearts.

Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can incorporate an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without this, they remain simply an assembly.

This Collective Worship Policy complements the vision, values and ethos of Marish Academy Trust schools. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the Trust. We view collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils who have a faith an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for every pupil’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, regardless of their faith or non-faith background.

Aims

- To unite our Trust communities by celebrating things that are of worth to each school and encouraging participation and reflection;
- To foster the children's awareness of themselves and a sense of belonging to one of our schools, to the wider community of Langley or Slough and to the society and world in which we live;
- To promote respect for individuals from different backgrounds and their beliefs;
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Marish Academy and to the personal development of each and every child.

Guidelines

- We aim for assemblies including an act of Collective Worship to be held every day, but given the increasing size of the schools, this will not be all year groups each day.
- All members of teaching staff who wish to, will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- All pupils are given the opportunity to lead assemblies and within them an act of Collective Worship, class by class.
- Visitors from faith organisations will be invited to share in the delivery of assemblies and, if appropriate, an act of Collective Worship. (If this is not appropriate, a member of staff will lead the act of Collective Worship.)
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the PSHE or SEAL themes, British Values, topical events, response to tragedies, the cycle of the seasons and the celebration of religious festivals.
- They will also relate to the children's interests- classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- Out of respect for the varied cultural heritage within the community served by our schools, there will be frequent references to faiths other than Christianity.
- Our acts of collective worship may take place through singing songs or through the opportunities given to both join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- Our schools will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.
- Whilst the Governors acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their child from the daily act of Worship and similarly acknowledge the right of teachers to be absent from the act of Worship, they may be required to attend an assembly when an act of Worship is not taking place.
- Parents wishing to withdraw their children from assemblies must consult with the Head Teacher, before requesting this.
- An inclusive time of reflection will be provided for all children regardless of their faith background.

Conclusion

The time set aside for Collective Worship gives us the opportunity, as a Trust, to draw attention to shared values, as well as allowing us to explore some spiritual, moral and aesthetic areas of experience.

We recognise this time each day as important; a time when we learn as a Trust, to relate and share as a whole, to give thanks for the wonders and mysteries of life and to affirm basic values. For example, respect for human rights, British values, responsibilities- love of one's fellow beings, honesty and equality.

Revision History

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