



## Trinity Academy St Edward's

**Policy:** Collective Worship Policy

**Date of review:** May 2021

**Date of next review:** July 2024

**Lead professional:** Principal

**Status:** Non-Statutory

## **Name of Academy Chaplain:**

Our Academy is a caring Christian community. We do what is right for each and every student; to ensure that young people in our care fulfil their potential; to strongly believe that we can, no matter what the challenge is; to be outstanding within outstanding. Within this environment we aim to develop individuals of Christian character who can achieve their full potential; can think for themselves; will want to continue learning and will become responsible members of society. Our 4 core Christian values of empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility are reflected upon each day in collective worship and in student and staff absolutes.

Our Christian vision is:

'We are an academy where all are valued, respected and celebrated. We are a courageous, resilient and positive community rooted in hope, aspiration and excellence. Together, we enable each other to be the best we can be.'

## **Philosophy**

Many students attend the Academy having not attended Church before. However, what is important to us, is that all students of faith or not, are invited to embrace our Christian ethos.

Our Christian values and the teaching of core RS enable us to develop our students holistically. We adapt to our cohort and, as well as developing students spiritually through collective worship, morally through the 4 core values and student absolutes and socially through tutor groups and all staff presence, we place much Christian value in developing student cultural capital.

Our Worship takes place in tutor time and a weekly assembly, and is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to uncover the immanent Creator God who is in all things, express and celebrate our commonality and encourage students and staff to reflect on how they live their lives. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At the Academy we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to support our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world wide Church.

## **Aims**

It is our aim at Trinity Academy St Edward's that worship should:

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- 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
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- promote community cohesion
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community

Please see the table below for an overview of our collective worship opportunities.

**Collective Worship Overview 2020-2021 NEED TO ADD FOR TASE – weekly themes**

Week beginning	Week	Worship theme	Staff member responsible
	C	New Beginnings	
	A	Education	
	B	International Day of Peace	
	C	Kindness is a language that everyone can understand	
	A	Uganda Update	
	B	The Power of Words	
	C	HOY celebration assemblies (Harvest services to be led by MKY during this week)	
	A	We will remember them	
	B	Anti Bullying Week	
	C	Homelessness	
	A	Gifts and Talents	
	B	Advent	
	C	What do you hope for?	
	A	HOY Celebration assemblies (Christmas services to be led by MKY during this week)	
	B	Keeping yourself safe	
	C	Respect	
	A	Holocaust Memorial Day	

	B	Celebrating Community	
	C	Forgiveness	
	A	HOY Celebration assemblies	
	B	What's fair about trade?	
	C	Lent	
	A	Prejudice	
	B	World Water Day	
	C	Role Models	
	A	Palm Sunday	
	B	HOY celebration assemblies (Easter services to be led by MKY during this week)	
	C	Stewardship	
	A	Dealing with Stress	
	B	Ramadan	
	C	Mental Health Awareness Week	
	A	HOY celebration assemblies	
	B	Faith	
	C	Pentecost	
	A	World Refugee Day	
	B	Miracles	
	C	Thankfulness	
	A	HOY celebration assemblies	
	B	Keeping safe	

### Types 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 students or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship is typically held during tutor time and a weekly assembly.

The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship in our school rests with the Academy Chaplain and the CL of Humanities.

Our acts of Collective Worship enable students to explore:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;

- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The academy values of respect, responsibility, empathy and honesty.
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance; the importance of prayer; the central symbols of Christianity; the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship at Trinity Academy St Edward's take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds, reflect, and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Trinity Academy St. Edward's we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This Academy expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal and Academy Chaplain, 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.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

On those days when a form group is not in an Act of Collective Worship the form tutors, students within the form group or Academy Chaplain will often develop /discuss the theological thought for the week. In order to facilitate and support this all tutor groups are provided with weekly 'theological thoughts', worship and reflection/discussion topics are also on the whole school screens in order to develop and deepen students' understanding of Christian themes.

### **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, monitoring and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning; this is carried out, primarily, by the school Chaplain and CL of Humanities, however form tutors and students are expected to engage and support/develop the themes as appropriate.

Each week there is a set theme for Collective Worship. It is expected that the staff member, when leading worship that week, will relate the worship to one of these themes and that form tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time, supported by the resources prepared for them. The theme chosen is broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

The collective worship pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that the Chaplain may feel that she needs to respond to local or national events. When this is the case the school may respond in a number of ways including reflection and discussion within individual forms, a collective act of reflection & remembrance and whole school worship.

It is expected that all students in each tutor group have the opportunity to consider and respond to the theme each week. This will allow students to lead their form collective worship.

Collective Worship is discussed and evaluated by the Academy ambassadors and any improvements are made.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept in the '*Collective Worship folder*' and are updated weekly. Extra Support for Collective Worship is also provided, as requested.