Trinity Academy St Edward's

Policy:	Collective Worship Policy
Date of review:	October 2024
Date of next review:	October 2027
Lead professional:	Principal
Status:	Non-Statutory
Academy Chaplain:	Vanessa Keates

Trinity Academy St Edward's is a caring Christian community. We do what is right for each and every student to secure transformational outcomes for all. We ensure that young people in our care flourish and live life to the fullest. We strive to develop individuals of strong moral character who can think for themselves, who have a love of lifelong learning, and who are responsible members of society. We welcome students of all faiths and none, and everything we do is built upon our academy parable, The Wise and Foolish Builder, and rooted in our four core Christian values of empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility.

Philosophy

It is our belief that collective worship should provide the opportunity for staff and students to explore what it means to have faith in themselves, faith in the world around them and faith in God. Collective worship should enable staff and students to consider spiritual, cultural and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. Through participation and response, whether through active involvement in the delivery of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered, collective worship should develop a strong community spirit and promote a common ethos. Collective worship should be inclusive, inspirational and invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. Collective worship should explore challenging and complex issues whilst ensuring that it is sensitive to the age and stage of our students.

Aims

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

Help staff and students to develop and reflect on their own ideas about the world, about themselves and about the value and worth of other people;

Create a culture where all members of the academy community are treated with dignity and respect as people created in the image of God;

Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of staff and students;

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, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;

Explore the teachings of Jesus and the relevance of his teaching in today's world;

Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, particularly understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God;

Develop a deeper understanding of Christian values, in particular the academy values of empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility;

Introduce staff and students to the variety of worship within the Anglican tradition, particularly through participation in liturgical celebrations;

Provide the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet;

Celebrate other faith traditions and provide an opportunity to celebrate shared values;

Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future;

Seek to develop a sense of community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;

Nurture and encourage appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;

Provide contribution to the development of students through opportunities for leadership and performance;

Take note of events in the wider world, celebrating and giving thanks, expressing joy or sorrow as appropriate;

Challenge staff and students to consider how their words and actions impact on the lives of others;

Enable staff and students to be able to live well together, understanding the importance of practising forgiveness and reconciliation;

Move the community to action as they reflect on how they can 'be the change they wish to see' through working for social justice and encouraging staff and students to consider the needs of others through charitable service, campaigns, and courageous advocacy;

Develop clear partnerships between worship within the academy and the wider community.

Types of Collective Worship

Collective worship as a year group takes place weekly during form time, and it is an important part of the academy day. It provides the opportunity to come together as a community to express and celebrate our commonality and encourages staff and students 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.

Our daily two-minute reflection provides the opportunity to pause, be still, recite the academy prayer and reflect on an image to promote deeper thinking and reflection.

When students are not gathered together for year group collective worship, students will explore the worship theme for the week in greater detail during form time. To facilitate and support this form groups are provided with weekly worship, reflection and discussion resources.

Chaplaincy, our designated spiritual space, is also available for staff and students to use during breaks and lunchtimes to further explore worship themes and to aid prayer, stillness and reflection.

The academy sometimes utilises St Edward the Confessor Church, Barnsley at important times within the liturgical Christian calendar as a venue for collective worship. These special liturgical celebrations are led by the academy Chaplain, students and local clergy.

Alongside our daily acts of worship and liturgical celebrations, staff and students observe a number of national days of remembrance such as Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day.

The academy 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 create an environment where worship is invitational and inclusive. However, we respect the right of parents and carers to withdraw their children for collective worship. The academy expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal, or appropriate senior leader, and followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The academy 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.

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 academy Chaplain, the Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies and the Senior Leadership Team. 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 and students who are leading worship that week, will relate the worship to this theme and that form tutors will reinforce this in reflections within form time, supported by the resources prepared for them. Staff are also encouraged to weave the worship themes throughout the curriculum, particularly through the use of 'Big Questions.'

The collective worship pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that the academy Chaplain or Senior Leadership Team may feel that they need to respond to local, national, or global events. When this is the case, the academy may respond in a number of ways including reflection and discussion within individual forms or a collective act of reflection and remembrance.

Collective worship is discussed and evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team and any improvements are made.

Resources

Resources for worship are created by the academy Chaplain, Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies and the Senior Leadership Team. Resources are kept in the *'Personal Development Curriculum, Collective Worship'* folder on Sharepoint and are updated weekly. Extra support for collective worship is also provided, as requested.