



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Author of Policy  
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Signed on behalf of Governing Body

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All Saints Church of England Academy, Plymouth aims to be an inspirational community of learning, which will transform the life chances of the students and make a positive contribution to the well-being of the local community and the wider world. The Academy is rooted in Christian values including truth, justice, forgiveness, generosity and respect. The Academy aims to provide outstanding educational opportunities and experiences which will enable all students, regardless of ability and background, to bring out the best in themselves, and to make a difference for good in the world.

The Academy believes that education is about the development of the whole person, and in educating each student will endeavour to:

- sharpen the mind
- enrich the imagination
- strengthen the body
- nourish the spirit
- encourage the will to do good
- open the heart to others

This policy and the associated procedures are based on these principles, aims and beliefs.

## Introduction

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all students which takes account of their age and aptitude [Education Reform Act 1988]. Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. As a church Academy however, worship is central to the life and work of the Academy and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

## Purpose

Through collective worship at All Saints Church of England Academy, Plymouth we aim:

- to provide an opportunity for children to reflect upon God and give Him honour
- to enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child made in the image of God
- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- to share with participants the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework
- to highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship
- to give the children memorable and enjoyable experiences
- to enable children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- to provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others, locally and globally
- to provide an opportunity to empathise with and respond to the needs of others
- to heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these to support the search for meaning
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to provide a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of forms of worship, including symbols and imagery
- to establish, explore, and reinforce the important Christian values of the Academy community including truth, justice, forgiveness, generosity, respect, love, joy and peace
- to encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues
- to provide opportunities for self-expression and creativity in worship
- to share some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and to encourage children to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework

# Procedure

In collective worship, children and adults will be responding to the worship in different ways and at different levels. Some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be 'at the threshold', interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

At All Saints Academy we will be aware of the timing of religious festivals and any specific requirements relating to them. As a Church of England Academy, we will value our Anglican heritage and take account of the Church's year and important festivals and saints' days.

## Acts of Worship must have:

- a clear message
- a dedicated focus – a lit candle, a vase of flowers, an artefact/picture that reflects something of the theme
- a clear plan to lead the students into a period of reflection – input, questions, relevance to age/stage
- a dedicated opportunity for the students to offer a response to the input, a prayer related to the input or an opportunity for silent reflection
- where there is worship, students will be given the opportunity to lead in the act of worship

## We expect students to:

- be respectful
- act in an appropriate manner
- have the daily opportunity for a sense of togetherness which engenders a sense of belonging
- understand of the purpose of worship, which is based on respect for God

## We expect staff to:

- lead, where applicable, in the agreed manner, collective worship including class assemblies
- respond to collective worship in an appropriate and respectful manner
- develop links with faith groups and at times, offer them the opportunity to lead assemblies and collective worship in the agreed format for our school

## It is not appropriate to:

- make the students repeat a prayer if they do not wish to
- join their hands if they do not wish
- say 'Amen' if they do not wish
- always have prayers: Intersperse Collective Worship with reflection, silence or discussion

## Resources

Thoughts for the Day resources are available for all staff in PowerPoint format or printed copies.