



Collective Worship Policy

Peterborough Diocese Education Trust

School: Ryhall CE Academy

This is a Trust Policy– details specific to Ryhall CE Academy are in the *Appendices*.

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Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

1. Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that Collective Worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, Collective Worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a special time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

2. Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy's aims and purpose of Collective Worship – see *Appendix 1*.

3. Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of Collective Worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

4. Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values each academy has chosen.

These are, for example: Thankfulness, Respect, Courage, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Trust, Compassion, Generosity, Hope, Justice, Truth and Acceptance. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

5. Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

6. Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

7. Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend Collective Worship, and we discuss this with parents/carers at the time of admission. However, any parent/carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Appendix 1

Academy specific details

Name of Academy: Ryhall CE Academy

1. Our Vision:

Ryhall CE Academy will provide the best learning environment that embraces excellence and academic rigour. Set within a framework of spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, moral, social and cultural development, we aim to:

- ignite a passion for life-long learning;
- develop great thinkers who embrace challenge;
- promote curiosity, enthusiasm, independence, self-belief and confidence.

inspiring and preparing every child to live 'life in all its fullness'. (*John 10:10*)

2. Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Ryhall CE Academy Collective Worship is at the heart of our life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in both contemporary & traditional Christian styles, which are consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

3. Practicalities of Organisation

Our daily act of Collective Worship forms part of each afternoon assembly. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in Appendix 2.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate during, as well as in prayer and song. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher and other members of staff conduct Collective Worship but usually on Thursdays, the vicar of the St. John's Church, Ryhall leads the session. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the Academy and the local church. Parents / carers are invited to Monday Collective Worship and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academic year. This promotes the community spirit of the Academy. We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at the start and end of the day, just before lunch and upon request of any pupil or member of staff all are invited to join.

Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (e.g. Christingle, Remembrance and end of year services in St. John's Church, Ryhall).

4. Content

A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs / music used.

We also hold Collective Worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to

acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

5. Resources

Roots to Fruit is used as the regular source of Bible material to share with pupils and is kept centrally in the staff resource area. Song/Hymn words and PowerPoints are kept electronically on the staff drive.

Useful websites to be used include:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk
www.barnabasinschools.org.uk
www.imaginor.co.uk
www.assemblies.org.uk/

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

A file is kept to record the current theme, song/hymn sung, prayer and reflection focus and an evaluation by a range of children. More detailed evaluations are conducted by the CW Lead.

The Ethos Lead observes and monitors CW. The Church Governors visit regularly and join in with CW, church services and school celebrations (such as the Christmas Nativity). The Governors also monitor CW and assess impact by talking to children and staff. Notes of all visits, observations and meetings are kept on file and discussed at Ethos Committee meetings.

The Church Governors regularly report back to the full Academy Governance Committee (AGC), focussing on outcomes, evaluation of visits and dated action points for the future to further develop this daily experience.

Appendix 2

Collective Worship: CW takes place daily between 3.00-3.15pm (except for in-class worship on a Tuesday which will be identified on individual teacher's planning).

All staff leading collective worship will greet children using the same greeting (with signing as shown):



Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear: it is clear that an assembly is a time for notices, matters of discipline or when visitors come in to give a talk or presentation (e.g. charities, an author for book week etc.) or when pupils present their curriculum work to the rest of the school. It is agreed that this is very different to the structure and atmosphere required for acts of worship.

The following are examples (to support staff) of how to demonstrate the transition between collective worship and assembly:

- Share notices at the beginning, not the end, so collective worship does not become muddled with matters of discipline or negative messages that might distract from the positive messages given at the end of the act of worship
- Light the candle and say the liturgical greeting for the day after any notices have been given
- Be explicit about the transition e.g. 'we are lighting our worship candle because our act of worship has begun'

Collective worship gives the whole school community the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Share each other's joys and challenges

Collective Worship will be planned initially by Claire Hicks as Ethos Lead. It is up to staff and children to plan appropriately for their Collective Worship according to the given focus. Collective worship should be '**INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL & INSPIRING**' and be Christian based worship.

Collective Worship Outline:

- Year 6 pupils directed to prepare:
 - Correct coloured cloth on table – table brought directly in front of children
 - 3 candles (triangular formation)
 - A copy of The Bible
 - Any objects/props required for the CW
- Entrance/Exit music/powerpoint/video should be appropriate to the theme
- Lighting of the three candles (battery operate candle) in a triangular form or flickering 3 candles Powerpoint
 - Leader: 'Peace be with you'
 - Response from children/staff: 'And also with you.'
- Children should arrive silently; prior to entering remind the children of the purpose of collective worship, the need for reflection, stillness and quiet.
- Use this as an opportunity to check uniform – all shirts/t-shirts tucked in.
- One member of staff per class should attend all assemblies.
- End of assembly prayer/opportunity for reflection. This should be invitational and should be preceded with something similar to:
'We're going to take this opportunity to reflect on today's Collective Worship. You might like to join me in joining in putting hands together, bowing our heads and offering our thoughts and prayers to God or simply be still and in the quiet think of'
 - A prepared prayer may be read by a child or the adult leading the assembly or you may ask the children to share their offerings to join as a prayer.
- The candles should be put out to show that worship has ended, with a continued opportunity to be still.

