



Collective Worship Policy

Audience:	Parents School staff Local Governing Bodies
Approved:	Sept 2020
Other related policies:	RE, PSHCE, Equality Policy
Policy owner:	Debbie Conroy
Policy model:	Sir Martin Frobisher Academy
Review:	
Version number:	1

Introduction

The 1988 Education Act provides for both R.E. and collective worship. They are separate activities, although they can often reinforce each other.

A whole school or class based assembly takes place daily at Sir Martin Frobisher Academy. We ensure that each assembly is appropriate to children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and most assemblies will include an element of collective worship. Whilst broadly Christian in nature the assemblies take into account religious figures and celebrations from across the faiths and focus on pupils moral as well as spiritual development.

Aims and Objectives

Collective worship is a unique part of the life of Sir Martin Frobisher Academy. It provides an opportunity for members of the school to pause from activity, to gather together, to remind themselves of and reflect upon beliefs and values which bind our school together. It allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those with no religious commitment to sense what worship is and reflect deeply. In this way we strive to meet the needs of all our school community.

In collective worship we:

- Provide an opportunity for members of the school to stop activity, to pause and reflect on important issues
- Foster a sense of fellowship and belonging
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
- Build up a sense of group identity and concern for the needs of each other
- Experience being still and silent
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate times of joy and success
- Provide an opportunity to meet at times of sadness or sorrow
- Provide an opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and school events

At Sir Martin Frobisher Academy, Collective Worship contributes to the *spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual* development of children in the following ways:

Spiritual development by providing an opportunity to:

- Reflect on value, purpose and meaning
- Experience times of quiet inactivity to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day
- Hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest the deeper meanings of life

Moral development by providing an opportunity to:

- Reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- Learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Social development by providing the opportunity to:

- Gather with others for a common purpose
- Share times of joy and sadness with others
- Learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting
- Discuss the values and vision within our academy

Cultural development by providing the opportunity to:

- Hear music from a range of times, places and cultures
- Reflect on ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear
- Appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the academy community and beyond
- Celebrate different cultural groups, the different celebrations and festivals throughout the year

Intellectual development by providing the opportunity to:

- Have ideas and beliefs confirmed and challenged
- Reflect on the nature of learning and education
- Discuss different religions, share similarities and differences and respect other faiths

Effective Collective Worship

The Education Act (1988) requires schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Teachers and Headteachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship. If the Headteacher exercises this right then they must ensure that the conditions of the Education Reform Act are adhered to within the school. The Education Reform Act (sections 7.1 and 7.2) requires collective worship to be 'wholly or mainly Christian' and 'reflect the broad traditions of the Christian belief'.

At Sir Martin Frobisher Academy we encourage visitors to lead our acts of collective worship. We aim to have visitors from different faiths into the school to lead assemblies. We also make a point of taking children to local places of worship to gain experiences of different buildings of worship.

Role of Parents

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from school worship. This can be:

- Total – that is where children would be wholly excused from all acts of collective worship
- Partial – that is where children are excused from certain kinds of collective worship only, or from certain elements within an act of collective worship

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship within our academy.