ACE Learning



Collective Worship Policy

Date of Ratification	**Autumn 2023**
Date for Review	**Autumn 2027**

Importance statement:

The daily act of collective worship at ACE Academy plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

Aims:

- to provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood);
- to give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives;
- to offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, academy achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.
- To promote British values.
- to comply with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship; the majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.
- the act of Collective Worship will be non-denominational;
- whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

Collective worship and parents:

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our academy's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of collective worship. This is made clear through the information contained in our prospectus. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Head of School. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall/room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations. Parents are asked to provide a suitable alternative activity/task where children are withdrawn from assemblies.

Collective worship organisation:

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
- Opportunity for children to pray or have a moment of reflection.

Whole school/key stage acts of collective worship:

- We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall.
- The usual format consists of an input from the leader, an appropriate hymn or song, followed by a time of prayer and/or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils though, for example questioning and drama;
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time;
- Visitors may be invited from time to time to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship;
- The assembly, including the act of collective worship, usually takes 15 minutes altogether.

Class-based acts of collective worship:

- We aim to give our children some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom;
- These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher or by one or more of the pupils;
- They usually take between 5 to 10 minutes.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the academy's quality assurance programme, it is the role of the curriculum team to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to SLT. Pupil Council will be asked to comment on their experience of and response to collective worship.

This policy includes details from Kent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and SACRE guidance.

Review

This policy document will be reviewed as appropriate in response to local or national initiatives, evaluations of monitoring procedures and as detailed in the Improvement Plan.