



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## **KEY ELEMENTS**

The Collective worship Policy provides guidance to parents, carers and staff about collective worship at Spring Common Academy Trust. This policy links to the SMSC Policy for spiritual education.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Spring Common Academy Trust does not have a single faith character to the school and we recognise all religious faiths and beliefs to support community cohesion.

We do however all share the view that worship should enable our special needs children and young people to reflect on the wider world and develop a sense of wonder about all the world offers them so pupils remain positive about their sense of belonging and personal identity.

We want our pupils to be able respect and share collective worship with others and develop tolerance and respect for others and accept the right of the individual to have faith and or beliefs.

## **LEGISLATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Collective Worship Policy at Spring Common Academy Trust pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by Cambridgeshire Local Authority through its SACRE 2011 -19.

We are guided by the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies and curriculum on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths and link this educational element to our Academy values and our SMSC Policy.

We recognise the Cambridgeshire Local Authority guidance document for schools that links to this policy.

## **ACADEMY VALUES BASED EDUCATION**

The Collective Worship Policy is consistent with the Academy values and aims of the school as an inclusive community:

Listening  
Moral Purpose  
Trust and respect  
Supporting innovation  
Integrity  
Communication  
Building confidence  
Empathy  
Collaboration

## **ASSEMBLIES AND EVENTS**

We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests.

It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos the Academy and it is our aim that the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

## **FOR THE PUPILS**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Spring Common Academy Trust, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes.

At times, Collective Worship will enrich the class work of pupils through its challenge to use reasoning skills with our pupils to consider different perspectives. Teachers will use the 'Bloom hierarchy of questioning skills' to encourage our special needs children to use thinking skills beyond literal recall of main ideas.

Teachers will introduce philosophy to the educational experience to enable children to draw their own conclusions from moral issues and dilemmas so they can understand human fragility.

At Spring Common Academy Trust there are children on roll with potentially life limiting medical conditions and experience of bereavement is not uncommon within our community. We will hold special assemblies to celebrate the lives of children and to enable our children to recognise the positive aspects of life and that for them their participation has valued impact upon others. In addition we will set up

As part of this response children will appreciate with guidance from staff the process of loss and change.

## **SMSC LINKS**

Our provision for Spiritual, moral, cultural and social education addresses a wide range of themes to support our special needs children to respond. Overall our aim is that pupils can be enriched by the SMSC offer and gain opportunities for collective worship as the teacher guides children to reflect and wonder.

## **THE MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Senior Leadership Team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

**THE ROLE OF TRUSTEES** is to check that there is provision of collective worship themes through our school assemblies.

## **THE ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and may take place in the school hall or the classroom.

Acts of worship will take the form of reflection and may last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading collective worship at some point in the school year.

## **PLANNING ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of our special needs pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and or events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with the teacher's planning and recording, we will ensure that there is continuity and progression.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods will be chosen that is appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the special needs pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection.

## **WITHDRAWAL BY PARENTS**

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the Head Teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

Policy agreed on: SEPTEMBER 2018

Signed on behalf of the Trustees L.ADAM

Committee: CURRICULUM

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Review date (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Website **Y**/N