



Mayflower Community Academy **Collective Worship Policy**

At Mayflower Community Academy, collective worship is set within the context of daily reflection and assemblies – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values
 - Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
 - Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
 - Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
 - Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
 - Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils
- All of the above are carried out whilst also promoting thought and debate, allowing children to reflect on their belonging to a community or group but also their individuality and right to opinion.

The Academy Community

Our Academy community is made up of people from many different religions and cultures. Assemblies are conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the Academy community. We are proud of the diversity of our Academy community and as such hold SMSC assemblies on themes that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the Academy and the wider community.

Daily reflection is regarded as a special time in the day and is conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully. We pose questions that require thought and sometimes debate, encouraging a deeper respect of differing opinions.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the Academy coming together and participating in assemblies. A celebration assembly normally involves all of the pupils in the Academy and then pupils come together in their year groups regularly to focus

upon a SMSC theme for the week. Themes are chosen to be in line with any national focuses and religious festivals/events. Themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding weekly celebration assemblies. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of Academy and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy – ‘Together we can’, as a collective we work together and achieve. Group and individual achievements are valued and recognised.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher, deputy head and our pupils. Members of our Chofsted (children’s ofsted) take a very active role in sharing the celebrations of our Academy. Visitors will also lead within this whole Academy setting. Prior to this, content and coverage is always checked.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example if we used a prayer from a particular faith, it would be introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe. A prayer may be introduced like this: I am going to read a Christian (Hindu, Buddhist.....) prayer. I would like you to think carefully about the words. Some of you might wish to make the words your own (Christians might do this by saying ‘Amen’).

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

A parent may make a request for their child/ren to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at Academy.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the Academy.

Reviewed: October 2019

