

Scholars' Education Trust

POLICY TITLE:	COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
STATUS	Non - Statutory
REVIEWED BY:	Trust Board
DATE DUE:	Summer 2021
DATE OF APPROVAL:	25 March 2021
DATE OF REVIEW:	Summer 2025
LEAD RESPONSIBILITY:	Chief Executive Officer / Deputy Chief Executive Officer

AIM

This policy will reflect the values of each school/academy within the Trust, which are concerned with mutual respect, cultural diversity and social inclusion. The Trust believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The caring ethos and the value placed on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship. Collective Worship will be of a broadly Christian character and will include all students unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. Families who send their children to the school/academy are from a range of faith and non-religious backgrounds. The Trust recognises that in asking students to worship, it must consider the background that students come from and it is therefore not the practice of the school/academy to preach or convert. The faith background of both the staff and the student's family is respected at all times.

Collective Worship will provide the opportunity for students to:

- reflect and actively participate
- reinforce the values of the school community and its ethos
- celebrate success
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- celebrate our common humanity
- grow in understanding of the feelings and beliefs of others
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimuli

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

Complaints and Equality

PRACTICE

Each school/academy will combine acts of worship with main school assemblies, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework.

The Headteacher or other senior staff lead the school worship each week, whilst Heads of Year and/or Form Tutors lead the Year Group assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year. Assemblies are sometimes discussed at Student Voice meetings and they are invited to submit ideas and get other children involved.

The school year has been divided into weekly themes (Thought for the Week, which may include religious festivals, known national or international events) and aspects taken from the school calendar. These provide themes for discussions at tutor times and staff leading worship can plan around the themes.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for students in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the Governing Body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship
- a daily act of Collective Worship is provided (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998)
- alternative provision is made for students whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship
- parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy

Other staff will ensure that:

- they participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage students to become actively involved
- the Thought for the Week programme or similar programmes are utilized in tutor time.

The Trust Board will:

- seek the advice of the CEO on this policy and LGBs will seek advice of the Headteacher, keep it up-to-date, and make it available to parents upon request
- delegate to LGBs to use their discretion to accept or reject requests from parents for their children to be withdrawn from any collective worship to which they object. It is Trust policy to show sensitivity to the views of parents whose ethnic background and/or religious beliefs cause them to hold strong reservations about such education.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- this policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects and is aligned with the current views of the school community.
- any significant modifications to the policy will be implemented following consultation of all key stakeholders and any amendments incorporated will be in the best interests of the students, parents and staff of the Trust.

Equalities impact assessment considered