



St Anne's  
Church of England Academy

The best for everyone  
The best from everyone  
We have faith in our future

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# WORSHIP POLICY

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Approved by	Local Governance Committee
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## 1. Policy Statement

St Anne's Academy is a Church of England School with a distinctive Christian ethos that welcomes young people of all faiths and none. Our distinctive Christian ethos as a school community is to encourage one another to 'love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22:39). We work hard to create a caring, safe and happy environment in which our children and young people can learn and grow together, achieve their best and develop into independent, responsible and caring members of society. Our values: Hard Work, Respect, Aspiration, and Integrity, reflect the biblical verse "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 and ensure our students are given every chance to succeed through our vision statement, "the best for everyone, the best from everyone, we have faith in our future.'

Collective worship and reflection are an important part of the school day, which bring us together as a community to reflect on what is important and how we treat one another as members of a shared moral community, where people are all valued as individuals.

## 2. Aims of collective worship

It is our aim at St Anne's Academy Church of England School that Collective Worship should:

- Align, reflect and be driven by the school's ethos, Christian vision and values.
- Offer opportunities for staff and students to explore what it means to have faith in themselves, the world around them and faith in God.
- Offer opportunities to explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Be appropriate to the ages and backgrounds of all present.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, particularly the significance of Jesus and God's revelations through the Bible.
- Celebrate and develop understanding for other faith traditions and provide an opportunity to celebrate shared values.
- Develop a sense of community within the school and foster being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals, special occasions, each other's joys and challenges.
- Inspire and challenge all present to consider how we can each grow in our character and grow closer to God as individuals and a community.
- Be inclusive and a time where each individual's integrity is respected.
- Allow time for silent reflection.
- Emphasise the importance of practising forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Engage the school community to action as they can reflect how they can contribute to change through charity, campaigns, 'Love Thy Neighbour Projects' and courageous advocacy.

## 3. Implementation of collective worship

Collective worship acts are attended by all students and staff, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join.

- The Trust Chaplain establishes the worship themes and provides the resources to support schools for the academic year.
- Each week students experience a different theme (such as charity, betrayal, forgiveness).
- Each year group will participate in a Collective Worship assembly each week led by the Chaplain/School Senior Leaders. Assembly typically consisting of a Biblical message, reading, prayer and reflection.
- The collective assemblies of year groups are complemented by form time reflection which follows the same themes, supported by materials prepared by the chaplaincy network so that students are all included and involved.
- All our students participate in the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders Award during weekly faith form time and private study on week 2 Tuesday.
- Y7 students attend a Christmas service, and Y8 an Easter service at St Leonard's Church in Middleton.

- At key points in the year, supported by the Trust's Chaplain, leaders of other world faiths are invited to take assembly, e.g., Oldham Multi Faith Forum supports and delivers assemblies for Ramadan.
- Alongside our weekly acts of collective worship and services, staff and students observe a number of cultural and social dates such as Remembrance Day, Black History Month and Holocaust Memorial Day.
- Our multi faith prayer room is available for staff and students to use to aid prayer, stillness and reflection.
- Visiting speakers (groups, bands) also put on special assemblies or events for pupils.
- Other faiths will be explored during PSHE and RE in order to celebrate diversity and understanding.

#### 4. Rights of withdrawal

At St Anne's Academy, we seek to create an environment where worship is invitational and inclusive. The attendance of students to collective worship and Religious Studies lessons is expected in that parents have applied for their child to attend a Church of England school and, in doing so, subscribe to the school's ethos, values, and day to day practices.

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from collective worship, this must be made in writing and following a parental discussion with the Headteacher.

The school has a system for suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship however no additional work is set or followed in this time. The right of withdrawal does not extend to general assemblies or form time sessions.

#### 5. Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship is treated like any other area of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivering, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The Trust Chaplain, Academy Chaplain, Senior Leaders and any staff member responsible for delivering acts of collective worship, plan high quality materials in line with the school's principles for teaching and learning. Whilst the themes are set for the academic year, the pattern is flexible to respond appropriately if needed to local, national or global events.

Collective worship is evaluated through quantitative measures on impacts of positive and negative behaviours and also qualitative learning walks, pupils and staff voice. This data is responded to immediately, if appropriate, or informs longer term improvement planning. An annual ethos report is provided to The Trust.