



THE EAST MANCHESTER ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Name: Collective Worship Policy

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Submission Date	Summary of Changes Required
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Draft 2	
Draft 3	

Approved By:	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Comments
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Introduction

The East Manchester Academy embraces its statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents / carers). The Academy recognizes that the Principal is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship in consultation with the Governing Body. Further, that the daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, with the precise nature depending on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. The Academy will ensure that any act of worship is open and does not assume belief by any participant. There will be a structured programme of regular assemblies with the act of Collective Worship being distinctive and identifiable. In addition, there will be the tutor periods which begin each Academy day, containing a daily act of reflection through the 'thought for the week'.

The Academy will take particular care to ensure, that in acts of Collective Worship, diversity is embraced in positive and sensitive ways through:

- building up constructive relationships with families and local faith communities
- ensuring that when some leaders use Christian prayers in the time set aside for prayer, pupils will be encouraged to use their own private devotions by thinking of prayers they have learned in their own faith tradition
- providing opportunities for silent reflection to enable all pupils to make a personal response
- respecting the integrity of different faiths and life stances

The aim of the collective worship policy is thus to provide the opportunity for pupils to;

- participate in worship which is broadly representative of other religious traditions
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual, ethical, cultural and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.

Within the Academy and through Collective Worship, we will strive to encourage pupils to;

- think deeply about their own and others' experiences and try to relate them to a clear set of personal values.
- have a keen interest in ethical issues, act in a principled manner and understand the importance of reassessing values in the light of experience.

- resolve conflicts intelligently and seek consensus while accepting the right of others to hold different opinions and beliefs.
- have a very good insight, based on first-hand experience, into similarities and differences between their own and others' cultures and how these are constantly changing.
- Be open to new ideas, appreciate cultural diversity and challenge racism.

Collective Worship

Acts of Collective Worship offer an ideal opportunity to reinforce the ethos and aims of The East Manchester Academy. We believe that Collective Worship has considerable potential to promote 'the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners, supporting pupils' development of;

- personal insight and purpose, and their understanding of society's shared and agreed values.
- the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together, and their understanding of their own culture and those of others locally, regionally and nationally.

The focus of our Collective Worship will be the 'thought for the week', and weekly House and Year assemblies.

Collective Worship, whether in assembly or during tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils
- be conducted in a calm, dignified, thoughtful and peaceful atmosphere.

Such occasions will provide an opportunity for all learners in the Academy to:

- encounter and reaffirm positive values such as honesty, integrity, understanding, respect, tolerance, caring, sharing, loving and forgiving.
- reflect on concerns and experiences
- encourage concern for others
- create an atmosphere for spiritual, moral, cultural and social development
- have opportunities for reflection and deeper thought
- provide an opportunity for celebration and praise
- engender a sense of unity

- provide a learning experience for all pupils
- experience a caring community
- consider own values and beliefs
- develop a community spirit, ethos and shared values
- develop their sense of awe, fascination and wonder at the world around us
- share the experiences of love, joy, hope, friendship, fear and sadness
- explore right and wrong
- promote concern for truth, justice, peace
- give students a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity of religious beliefs and practices in our multi-faith society
- reflect on aspects of human life and the natural world and appreciate them.

‘Thought for the Week’

‘Thought for the Week’ will contain a thought-provoking message which underpins the mission, vision and values of the Academy. We will encourage staff, pupils, parents/ carers and sponsors to give their ideas on suitable quotes and reflections.

Assemblies

Assemblies will play an important part of the Academy week. Care is taken to ensure that the chosen theme is sensitive and appropriate to the needs of the Academy. We will implement a tradition of listening to Music to encourage a sense of reflection and build a selection of resources to enhance the quality of Collective Worship. Assemblies will be organised and delivered in such a way that they will be a key learning experience for staff and pupils, directly supporting the curriculum aims of the Academy, including acting as a stimulus for PSHCE work alongside religious, moral, cultural and social enquiry. Assemblies will provide a framework for reinforcing the community aspect of Academy life where achievement and success is celebrated, individually and collectively. Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of pride and affiliation to their House and Year Group, thereby supporting the wider aims of the Academy itself, sharing its values, fostering a spirit of unity and community and raising awareness of the beliefs, needs and rights of others. We hope to encourage the consideration of current moral and ethical issues, and to stimulate the exploration of complex philosophical ideas.

Both pupils and staff should leave the place of assembly feeling a sense of belonging to the Academy community.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review



The Trust Board will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

Adopted by the TEMA On

Chair of Academies Trust Board

Principal

Review date

Appendix 1 - Example Thoughts of the week

- Be the change you want to see in the world (Gandhi)
- The further you look back, the further forward you are likely to see (Churchill)
- People who are successful usually have an inner drive about them (Alex Ferguson)
- Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. (Obama)
- The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.(Franklin D. Roosevelt)
- Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less. (Marie Curie)
- The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. (Nelson Mandela)
- “The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” Confucius
- We will surely get to our destination if we join hands. Aung San Suu Kyi
- We have to stop and be humble enough to understand that there is something called mystery. Paulo Coelho
- In the confrontation between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins -- not through strength but by perseverance. H. Jackson Brown
- Peace begins with a smile. Mother Teresa
- An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.
Buddha
- I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction. John F. Kennedy

SOME SUGGESTED THEMES

This is not an exhaustive list and will be planned over a two year cycle.

Key Christian festivals including:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week
- Easter

Key festivals from cultures and religions including:

- Chinese New Year
- Diwali
- Eid el Fitr
- Hannukah
- Ramadan

Further general themes:

Achievement
All things new
All you need is love
Barriers and bridges
Beginnings and endings
Books
Caring
Celebration
Choices and decisions
Communication
Co-operation
Courage and bravery

General themes including:

Families
Forgiveness
Friends
Gifts and giving
Happiness and sadness
Honesty
Light and darkness
Looking back - looking forward
Memories
Moving on
Neighbours
One world
Peace
People who help us
Praise
Prayer
Promises
Reflection
Responsibility
Resilience
Self-Awareness
Suffering
Thankfulness
Wonder

Useful Reference

Guidance on Collective Worship in Church of England schools January 2006
Ofsted 2009