



Ark All Saints Academy

Collective Worship Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

Ark All Saints Academy aims to:

- provide scholars with opportunities to worship God and reflect on some of the moral issues and debates common to all major world faiths and philosophies within an Anglican Christian context, and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these to support the search for meaning
- be aware of and sensitive to the wide range of cultural and religious backgrounds of scholars at the academy
- provide an opportunity to respond to the worship offered
- provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others locally, nationally and internationally
- enable scholars to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- cultivate a sense of awe, joy, mystery and wonder
- develop and nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- encourage individual scholars to become more aware of one's own self, one's own beliefs and one's potential
- include opportunities for worship, such as, for example, those afforded by assemblies, pastoral tutor periods, in lessons and the extended day
- establish SMSC in all schemes of work
- give scholars memorable and enjoyable experiences.

Alternative provision is made for scholars whose parents request that they withdraw their child from collective worship on religious grounds. The “religious grounds” do not *have* to be justified and explained by the parents though it is helpful if they do. Should scholars be withdrawn, the academy will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety during the period in which the worship takes place.

2 PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE

The Collective Worship Policy at Ark All Saints Academy is based on the principle of reflection and asking questions of oneself in a Christian / religious context. It is an opportunity for scholars and staff to reflect on their place and purpose in the world and to consider their roles and responsibilities.

In collective worship, scholars and adults will be responding to the worship in different ways and at different levels. Some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be "at the threshold", interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of collective worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves. The academy's Staff Handbook contains a schedule of the themes for the year which are founded Christian values and concepts.

The nature of worship has been interpreted by the academy and its Governing Body to be primarily concerned with:

- Providing scholars and staff with opportunities and space to reflect
- Asking questions about ultimate goals and values from a Christian perspective
- Offering a Christian message of hope and salvation to all scholars
- Reflecting on and actively participating in discussion
- Reinforcing the values of the academy community, summarised as mutual respect, cultural diversity and social inclusion within a Christian community
- Celebrating success
- Focusing on the universal values of Christianity such as forgiveness, love, selflessness, togetherness, charity, humility, respect, hope and faith
- Learning about how we can live with confidence, take on responsibility, be successful and live with integrity by reflecting on our own actions and on the lives of others from our past and present

Assemblies reinforce the theme of the week which is referenced to a verse or passage from the Bible. A record of assemblies is kept by Ms L Frame, the Principal. Collective worship is formally held for all scholars as a year group once a week and is complemented by reflections held in pastoral tutor groups once a week and at the beginning of period 1 every day. Assemblies form an essential part of the academy policy on the curriculum. They are designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all scholars.

It is worth noting that staff have a daily reflection at morning briefings which is intended to set an appropriate tone for the day ahead.

There will be a regular service of Holy Communion held in the church adjacent to the academy once a week before the start of the day for all scholars and staff that wish to attend.

There will also be an annual founders' day service held in the cathedral on or as near to 1st November.

POLICY INFORMATION

Named personnel with designated responsibility for Collective Worship Policy

Academic year	Designated Senior person	Deputy Designated Senior person	Nominated Governor	Chair of Governors
2013-2014	Lucy Frame			Peter Martin
2013-2014				

Policy review dates (frequency of review: every year)

Review Date	Changes made	By whom
July 2013	Policy created	Lucy Frame
July 2014		

Ratification by Governing Body

Academic year	Date of ratification	Chair of Governors
2013-2014	July 2013	Peter Martin

Dates of staff training for this academic year

Dates	Course Title	Staff