

Collective worship

Queen Elizabeth's Academy

September 2022

Published: September 2022	Next review: September 2023	Statutory/non: Non-stat	Lead: CR
Associated documents:			
Worship with Us plans Church Year document Worship Calendar			
Links to:			

Rationale:

Inspired by Luke 10:29 – 37 we give our all to all in appreciation to God who gave his all in Jesus, offering learning without boundaries and care without limits so that all our students can experience life in all its fullness.

It is a legal requirement that the academy provides a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The regulations are set out in The Education Act 1944 as amended by The Education Reform Act 1988. The Act states that collective worship organised by the academy is to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. For those acts that are broadly Christian, the main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief.

At Queen Elizabeth’s Academy, we aim to ensure collective worship forms an integral part of our academy day. We want everyone to be clear about the role and function of collective worship in our academy- it’s important that pupils, parents and staff recognise it is not simply about ‘assembly’. We recognise that collective worship and assemblies are two different, distinct activities. At QEA an assembly is a gathering together for the purpose of giving information, notices and reiterating academy rules. Collective worship is the part of that gathering together where an act of worship takes place. For logistical reasons, these two activities are sometimes held together, however the leader of the assembly will be clear about when it ends and when the collective worship begins. Where possible the events are separate and distinct gatherings.

Queen Elizabeth’s Academy believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of academy life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in the academy day for the space it gives to pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

The right of withdrawal

As a Church of England school with a strong Christian ethos that underpins the whole of school life it is expected that all students desiring to study here will wish to participate fully in the collective worship that is offered. Notwithstanding this, the legal right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship remains.

Aims:

Collective worship at Queen Elizabeth's Academy is intended to:

- Enable students and staff to explore and celebrate the diversity found in the worship traditions of the Church of England.
- Provide opportunities for students and staff to engage with the cycle of the Christian year and to celebrate the key Christian festivals.
- Help students and staff to explore and develop their own spirituality and faith in ways that respect the diversity of the school community.
- Encourage students to reflect upon the relevance of scripture and the doctrines and traditions of the Christian faith for their own lives, decisions, attitudes and behaviour.
- Use a wide variety of worship and music styles, methods, symbols, liturgies, vocabularies and resources to engage students as fully and as regularly as possible.
- Through the regular use of Christian greetings and prayers, provide students with a framework of Christian devotion that they can call upon at times of need throughout their lives.
- Reflect upon key issues of the day from a Christian perspective.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and demonstrate core Christian values (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving).
- Celebrate the God-given talents and gifts of each individual member of the school community acknowledging their uniqueness as people made in the image of God.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally nationally and globally.
- Develop a sense of community within the school and foster a concern for the needs of others.

Practice

At Queen Elizabeth's Academy, we sometimes combine our collective worship with assemblies, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. If we choose to do this, the leader of the assembly will be clear about when it ends and when the collective worship begins. Every second week the Chaplain leads a collective worship gathering with each year with a focus on the current Core Value we are celebrating in our Worship With Us cycle.

In this session one of our core values is explored through the lens of a biblical and historical or contemporary character. This method brings the bible to life by examining how the values were 'lived out' by each character. The nature of collective worship is such that every student will have opportunity to reflect on key Christian beliefs about Jesus.

Our collective worship is further embedded in our student's education in that the students will also encounter the characters explored in Collective Worship in their history and RE lessons throughout their time at the academy.

In addition to this our tutors lead on discussion around our vision and values and students maintain a Personal Reflection Journal where they record how they have lived out our values.

Further to this, each tutorial group has an opportunity on rotation to spend time in the academy chapel, with our chaplain, discussing what the values and associated scripture means to them. Pupils are given the opportunity to light a candle in quiet reverence, and to pray with the Chaplain if they wish to do so. The thoughts and feedback of pupils and staff are gathered following these chapel sessions.

Twice a day, every day, our staff pause for prayer and personal reflection. Our prayers are centred around the core value we are celebrating in the current Worship with Us cycle. During tutor time in the morning we share our academy prayer, whilst before lunch we share the current values prayer.

Students that do not wish to pray are invited to enjoy a moment of personal reflection.
We insist that all students observe some quiet time, to allow those that wish to pray to do so.

For further information please refer to the Strategic Overview document

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship will be subject to the established QA practices operating within the school.

Review

The collective worship policy will be reviewed at least annually.

Next review- November 2023