

Greig City Academy



Collective Worship Policy

‘Show by a good life that your works are done by gentleness born of wisdom.’ (James 3.13)

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on 10 May, 2022.

It will be reviewed in 2025 or prior to that if there are any legislative changes or school requirements that affect its provisions.

This policy is published on the Academy’s website www.greigcityacademy.co.uk and is available on request to the Principal’s PA, V. Oxley, in the following formats: e-mail, enlarged print version, others by arrangement.

Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Greig City Academy's Christian ethos is reflected in our focus on high standards of academic and personal achievement, positive attitudes towards learning and exemplary behaviour. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of the school. It reaffirms our vision, mission and values and celebrates the contribution that each student makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year.

2. Collective Worship and the Law

- 2.1 All maintained schools, including academies, must provide daily collective worship for registered pupils. The head teacher is responsible under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- 2.2 Daily collective worship in the Academy reflects the school's Anglican status as expressed in its trust deed and, as such, builds on the rich diversity of Anglican tradition and identity and is of an inclusive Christian character.
- 2.3 Parents who have concerns about their children taking part in collective worship have the right to withdraw them in consultation with the school. From age 16, students may choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship. Requests to withdraw should be made in writing to the Principal.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 By '**worship**' is meant prayer and liturgy which enables students and staff to express and declare their faith; inspire and strengthen them in their daily lives and provoke such responses as praise, thanksgiving joy, love, wonder, commitment and repentance. Two main aspects of worship are: **Offering to God** praise, adoration and confession; and **Receiving** - for example fellowship, forgiveness, inspiration and strength.
- 3.2 '**Collective worship**' reflects an awareness of, a respect for and sensitivity to the presence of people from a variety of religious backgrounds as well as those of no formal faith, since it is their membership of the school community rather than the holding of a particular religious belief which brings people together for collective worship.
- 3.3 '**Liturgy**' should express in prayer and ritual the spiritual life of those who take part. The Academy seeks to provide a variety of opportunities for worship, collective and corporate, Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic, in an attempt to meet and engage people at differing stages on their faith journey.

4. Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring

4.1 **Inclusive:** Collective worship at the Academy will be inclusive and accessible to all students and staff, whether from a Christian background, a different faith background or no faith background. It will provide opportunities for people to:

- develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared vision and values
- bring their own experiences to worship
- be involved in the planning of, leading and evaluation of worship
- develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- consent and dissent, to participate and stand back

4.2 **Invitational:** Collective worship should be consistently invitational, providing an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those with no religious belief to be present and engage with integrity. We will provide opportunities to:

- explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- deepen and widen the experience of those of faith and encourage those of little or no formal faith so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- reflect on values that are of an Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, and other religions and belief systems
- consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith

4.3 **Inspiring:** Collective worship should be constantly evolving, aspirational, formational and transformational. The Academy's provision will encourage and enable students and staff to:

- ask important questions about who we are and why we do what we do
- develop an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- think differently and reflect on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions
- think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions
- become courageous advocates of causes

5. Implementation

5.1 A daily act of collective worship will take place in assembly and tutor time and will be given the highest importance by those responsible for ensuring it happens. It will always be distinct from announcements or other presentations or business.

5.2 Each year group has an assembly once a week. Each tutor group has tutor time each day. The Academy's chaplain will produce a PowerPoint presentation on a particular theme each week for use in assemblies and tutor time.

5.3 The presentations will have a clear message; their themes will link with school, national and international events and with the liturgical year and will tackle religious, environmental and political issues that open up questions about the meaning and purpose of life.

5.4 The style of delivery will vary depending on the tutor group and staff and may include prayers, celebrations of achievement, stories and readings, music, silent meditation, and guest speakers.

- 5.5 Students will at all times be encouraged to lead, contribute to and participate in, worship, in a respectful manner.
- 5.6 A full school assembly will take place each term and will be conducted by the Principal with the support of the Chaplain. All staff and students will attend. These assemblies will include an act of worship and input from the RE department and will also provide opportunities to re-affirm the school's values and to celebrate success.
- 5.7 There will be a weekly celebration of the Eucharist on Thursday mornings at 8.00am for any staff or students who wish to attend.
- 5.8 Students will have the opportunity to take part in, and experience, the Eucharist in conjunction with their study of this area of worship in RE.
- 5.9 The Academy and Chaplain will facilitate an informal time of prayer and reflection for staff and students as demand requires.
- 5.10 There will be a prayer at the end of the Staff Briefing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- 5.11 The Chaplain will be involved in training staff for their collective worship role.
- 5.12 The school will arrange other services for groups of staff or students at different points of the school year on an *ad hoc* basis, for example on INSET days and at the start of the school year.
- 5.13 Welcoming those in our community who practise faiths other than Christianity, we will also seek to make provision for voluntary prayer and worship led by their members at particular times of the year, for example, Ramadan.
- 5.14 The Chaplain and staff will develop links with faith groups and, at times, offer them the opportunity to lead assemblies and collective worship in the agreed format for the school.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 6.1 The impact of the Collective Worship Policy and its implementation are regularly discussed and assessed by the SIAMS Working Group, which includes the Chaplain, the Vice Principal (Pastoral), the Head of Humanities and one or two members of the Governing Body. The Vice Principal monitors tutor time and assemblies.
- 6.2 The Governing Body will review the policy every three years. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.