



Collective Worship Policy

Review Summary

Adopted:	November 2018
Review Cycle:	Bi-annual
Last Review:	March 2021
Next Review:	March 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Trust, comprised of both secular and church schools believes that collective acts of worship should support and strengthen what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We value the opportunities in the school day for children to develop a reflective approach to life and their ability to express their thoughts, either as a religious belief or secular reflection.

2. What Constitutes Collective Worship

- 2.1. An academy's funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for an act of collective worship in local authority maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70. Academies should follow paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's guidance on collective worship in schools in which every pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation.
- 2.2. Those academies with a religious designation must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy's designated faith. The above also applies to former voluntary-controlled or foundation schools with a religious designation that have converted to academies. They must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy's designated faith.
- 2.3. Academies without a religious designation must provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community, as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.
- 2.4. The Trust recognises the diverse composition of all those within the Trust community (those from different faith backgrounds as well as those of none) and thus takes care to ensure that any collective acts of worship do not act to preach to, or attempt to convert children to any particular faith or denomination.
- 2.5. Where the Trust has been notified and is supportive, individual schools without a religious designation can apply to the local authority's SACRE. This is called a "determination", and alternative worship must be provided for these pupils, although parents still have the right to have their children excused from this worship. These exemptions are covered by Schedule 20 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

3. Parents Can Withdraw their Child from Collective Worship

- 3.1. Parents/Carers can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship under the terms of The Education Reform Act 1988 S.9 (3). A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.
- 3.2. A child over the age of 16 can also request to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship. A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.

- 3.3. Every request will be respected and the individual arrangements for the child, and how the child's withdrawal can be accommodated, will be discussed with the parents/carers.

4. Aims of Collective Worship

4.1. We aim for children to:

- Gain insights into the ways in which they and others express themselves according to the tenets of their faith.
- Increase awareness of themselves as individuals and groups within the school community.
- Promote respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others
- Acknowledge diversity.
- Celebrate the values and worth of their whole school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all children.
- Understand the feelings of others in everyday situations.
- Explore the language used to express feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in the confidence to express their thoughts.
- Respond to spiritual stimulus.

5. Reflection Rooms

- 5.1. The Trust recognises that, if requested by children, families or staff, that it is good practice-where practicable, to provide a facility that permits worship of religions and beliefs.
- 5.2. Therefore, the policy of the Trust is, if requested, to take an inclusive approach towards providing, where practicable, a quiet room for use by any member of the school community. Such a room could be for prayer or personal reflection. If requested and practicable, the school will consult with pupils to ensure availability of the room in order to meet their needs.
- 5.3. Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, children are permitted to leave school premises to receive religious education. Parents should make such requests in writing to the Headteacher. Following the Muslim Council of Britain guidance, the Trust is to make suitable arrangements for Muslim pupils to receive such education in school if requested, thus negating the need for such permissions.

6. Policy Circulation

- 6.1. This Policy will be published on the Trust's website and included in the Trust's Policy Monitoring Schedule.
- 6.2. This Policy will be circulated to every Member, Trustee/Director, Governor and Senior Employee by sending an email to the link on the Trust's website.
- 6.3. The Trustees are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of this Policy.

Adoption of the Policy

This Policy has been adopted by the Trustees of the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Chair of Trust)

Date: 17.03.21