

Collective Worship Policy Dyson Perrins

Our Dyson Perrins Vision statement is built on the foundations of the theological teaching of John 10:10 'Life in all its fullness' this means that we wish to:

- Deliver academic excellence every day
- Enable character development and personal growth
- Provide extra-ordinary experiences that create life long memories
- Create a supportive and happy learning community with a sense of togetherness
- To work in effective partnerships to have a positive influence across our community.

Collective worship allows students to explore our school vision and values of belief, trust, challenge and resilience; and develop spiritual well-being to equip them for life after Dyson Perrins.

Legal Framework:

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship in all maintained schools for all students. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective Worship in a Church of England school must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on Collective Worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Dyson Perrins CofE Academy should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

School Statement on Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship is an expression of our vision. We want our students to be able to develop our core values by learning about them, practising them and actively demonstrating them. In turn, this will assist them in experiencing 'life in all its fullness'.

Themes for collective worship are calendared to cascade key theological teaching through sharing information of key awareness events in society. The combination of the Dyson Devotional, SLT Collective Worship and Line up Collective Worship, Eucharistic services and holy days of obligation observances, allow the community time to reflect on the teachings of the Bible and build their understanding of the Christian faith. It builds students' character and allows us to deliver our vision statement.

Collective Worship is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and Collective Worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils. The purpose of Collective Worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

- **It is invitational**

Acts of Collective Worship will encourage students to consider the needs of others through working for social justice, charity work and courageous advocacy. It will provide an opportunity to nurture reflection, stillness and prayer and provide students with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension in ways that are separate to the normal school day. Collective worship will also allow the school community to learn about stewardship and provide opportunities to develop partnerships between worship in school and wider community.

- **It is inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Jesus. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths and none to our worship. Our acts of Collective Worship will recognise diversity within our school and local community and provide appropriate material to allow all students to feel safe and valued whilst experiencing Collective worship. All members of the school community will have opportunities to be involved in Collective worship which include times of reflection to aid their development and understanding of the Christian faith.

- **It is inspiring**

Our acts of Collective Worship allow opportunities to promote the Christian vision and assist the school community in becoming increasingly aware about life. Students will be encouraged to ask big questions about life and beyond and become courageous advocates in the world. Collective Worship will motivate students to reflect on their behaviour and action in the wider community, whilst also providing opportunities to develop understanding of the Christian faith through use of appropriate Biblical and Liturgical content including the Eucharist. As part of Collective Worship we will also provide opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils and include appropriate references to elements of other faiths and secular world wide views.

Our regular pattern of worship (Appendix 1) ensures that students experience worship from a range a different leaders and viewpoints, whilst maintaining the integrity of Anglican Liturgy. The school community are also offered opportunities to train in the leading and evaluation of collective worship in school. The school community will experience Collective Worship on site and in local places of worship. Any external Collective Worship will be monitored to ensure that it is well planned and appropriate to uphold our distinctive Christian vision and values.

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Planning**

Collective worship is planned as a yearly overview for worship in conjunction with SLT and Chaplain. It focusses on teachings from the Liturgical Calendar and key awareness days. Students and staff will be involved in the planning of key services and all resources will be selected to be appropriate to the school community. All Collective worship will provide a time of reflection and clear use of liturgy.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Collective Worship Lead, Governors and Pupil Worship Team to ensure that Collective Worship remains invitational, inclusive and inspiring. Regular evaluations will take place in order for improvements to be made.

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Body will provide a statement within the school prospectus which makes clear that the aims of Collective Worship within the school are based on its Christian foundation and includes parents' legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship. The Governing body will also ensure that the school fulfils its legal responsibility for Collective Worship and in conjunction with the Headteacher, monitor the effectiveness of Collective Worship within the school and make recommendations for its development in accordance with the SIAMS Schedule.

The Headteacher / Collective Worship Lead will co-ordinate timetabling / themes across the year, in conjunction with the school and church community. A clear statement about the school's ethos for Collective Worship including the right of withdrawal will be made available in the prospectus and on the school website. The leads will also evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship and monitor the balance of visitors into the school ensuring that their values align with those of the school. The Head teacher and Collective Worship lead will also support staff in the delivery of Collective worship, provide training where appropriate, and be part of the SIAMS inspection process.

The Pupil Collective Worship team will have opportunities through the school year to plan, lead and suggest ideas. They will also be instrumental in promoting Collective Worship within the school community.

Staff should support the crucial role that Collective Worship plays within the school and plan and lead Collective Worship when required as well as provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on worship at other times during the week.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. In Dyson Perrins CofE Academy there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. On occasion, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their faith or denomination, the Governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school;
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply (this means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily Collective Worship.)

Review

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the Governing Body **every years**. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- a change in the SIAMS Schedule for Inspections;
- a change in legal position framework for Collective Worship.

Appendix 1

Pattern of Collective Worship

Our regular pattern of worship ensures that students experience worship from a range a different leaders and viewpoints, whilst maintaining the integrity of Anglican Liturgy

Daily: Collective worship in morning line up linked to our Theme of the Week

Weekly: Year group Collective Worship led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team based on key awareness dates and the liturgical calendar.

½ termly: Access to the Dysons Devotional, a weekly reflection for each week of the term based on reading from the Liturgical Calendar including reflection, prayer and call to action.

Termly: Eucharist Service and end of term Service.