Hope Academy

A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Vision

'Serve One Another Through Love' (Galatian 5:13)

Mission

"Working together to inspire excellence guided by Christian values."

Values

Respect, Courage, Ambition, Hope

Responsible Authority	Local Academy Council
Date Approved	January 2026
Responsible Person	Chaplain
Review Date	January 2027
Reviewed on and changes made	January 2026
Next review	January 2027

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Introduction

Hope Academy is a Joint Denominational Catholic and Church of England school, in St Helens, catering for children aged from 11 to 16. This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from St Helens' Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

This document is a statement of the Academy's intentions with regards to Collective Worship. Collective Worship in our Academy is based on provisions of the 1993 Education Act and the 1998 Education Reform Act. These state that:

- Collective Worship should be provided each day for all students.
- The majority of acts of worship in a term should be broadly Christian, reflecting the main traditions of Christian belief.
- Collective Worship should be appropriate, having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the students involved.

Collective Worship is somewhat unique to schools and is a term only found in educational circles. In a school, no assumptions can be made about shared beliefs of those who attend Collective Worship. The students and staff are a group of people who come from a variety of Christian and non-Christian backgrounds. Collective Worship must take into account the varied backgrounds of both staff and students. No assumptions should be made when planning and delivering Collective Worship: Collective Worship should always be inclusive.

AIMS

All worship in Hope Academy aims to meet the needs of our students in living by our vison of "Serving others through Love" and by the Gospel Values through our mission of ***"Working together to inspire excellence guided by Christian values."***

Collective Worship is central to the life of our Academy and provides opportunities for students and staff to come together to worship God and to respond to the invitation from God to be in relationship with Him. Collective Worship at Hope Academy reflects the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England, taking into account the spiritual and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church.
- Those for whom the Academy may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions, faith communities or none.

Collective Worship offers students and staff in our Academy an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in the Academy.

Values: Respect – Courage – Ambition - Hope
Mission: Working together to inspire excellence guided by Christian values
Vision: Serve one another through love

Our Collective Worship provides students and staff the opportunity to:

- Worship God

- consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- Experience a variety of styles of worship
- Celebrate:
  - Christian festivals
  - Academy values
  - Achievements
- Grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- foster a sense of joy awe and wonder in all creation
- affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- explore social, moral and spiritual values in a cultural context
- support students and staff on their personal spiritual and religious journey
- inclusive of others faiths and beliefs
- Develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- Develop as a community based in Christian values
- Participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of Worship
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Be reflective on their wellbeing
- Respect the Christian tradition and foundations of the school
- Feel safe and affirmed
- promote and encourage British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty to reflect life in modern Britain.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth
- Consider moral issues in a Christian context
- Enhance social understanding
- Explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

Essentially, Collective Worship should:

- related to the age, ability and background of students
- designed to actively engage students, and elicit a response
- memorable and enjoyable
- an educational activity
- a sense of occasion
- flexible and able to respond to special occasions
- Have a recognised place in all key documents;
- Be well resourced, organised, planned and led;
- Be distinct from ordinary classroom activity;
- Be inclusive and unifying whilst maintaining the integrity of the Christian faith.
- Encourage student leadership;
- Be real worship

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship in a school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Christian education and is an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in a Joint Denominational Christian school whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment will be Christian in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

This takes into account the religious and education needs of all who share in it:

- those who form part of the worshipping community in Church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- those from Christian traditions.
- those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship is an act of prayer and a spiritual experience as well as an educational activity.

Opportunities for enhancing the Spiritual life of all members of the school community are available and are being regularly amended and added to, so that the needs of the school community are met. This includes a bi-weekly voluntary Catholic Mass or Anglican Holy Communion for staff and students, and CPD relating to Collective Worship. Students have the opportunity to participate in activities that enhance their spiritual life including Faith in Action, Charity work, and chaplaincy groups. The Spiritual development of students is inherent to the ethos of the school.
A Joint Denominational Service of Welcome for new students in Year 7 is celebrated at the end of the first half term in October, and a leavers' liturgy for those leaving in Year 11 is timed appropriately. On major occasions there are school services at the local Anglican and Catholic churches, and there are opportunities for other appropriate liturgies relevant to the lives of the school community.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in a variety of groupings: in the Main Hall, classrooms and on occasions outside of the Academy. Daily Collective Worship takes place every morning, at the beginning of form time during our 'Ignite' sessions, and is an integral part of the *Hope Inspire* programme. In addition to form-time Collective Worship, all students take part in year group Collective Worship once a week.
Our 'Ignite' Sessions follow the pattern of: Monday Meditation, Tuesday Talking Point, Wednesday Word, Thursday Thought, Friday Feelings, and use a variety of prayer methods to help students reflect.
We follow the seasons of the Church year and, within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include *Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter* and *Pentecost* and other days are celebrated, such as our feeder primary schools saints feast days. Liturgical colours are displayed within daily Collective Worship resources to correspond with these different seasons.

Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself. For example, Collective Worship should inspire students and staff to reflect and respond in their own daily lives.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

At Hope Academy all prayer and worship organised by the school, for its members, is consistent with the beliefs, rites and practices of the Catholic Church and the Church of England. The school Chaplain supports all aspects of prayer and worship in our school.

A firm religious, spiritual and moral basis, consistent with and supportive of the Christian character of the school underpins the provision of Collective Worship.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within the Academy and from our local Church and wider community. Students are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from other faith communities within the local area help us to increase our students' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the students who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The format for Collective Worship will be:

- **Gather** – How we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, etc.) Each act of worship starts with prayer and an invitation to make the sign of the cross or to bow heads. Each Collective Worship links the theme to the Christian Faith with a bible quote. Thought for Today which is a Scripture or an inspirational quote. This is followed with the Academy Values Prayer.

- **Listen** – Every act of worship will contain a reflection. This might be, for example, a text from the Bible, a story, or an inspirational media clip and will include relevant music, symbols and images.

- **Challenge / Respond –** Promote discussion and provide students with something to take away from the experience of the worship that they can implement into their daily lives.

- **Pray and Go -** Every act of worship is closed with an opportunity to reflect on all that they have heard/discussed and to respond with communal prayer. There is also an action to do each day to respond to the theme.

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the students, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the students. Throughout their time at our Academy, students will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as scripture, prayer and song.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders (staff, visitors and student leaders) may feel that they need to respond to local, national and international events.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce students to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Catholic Church and the Church of England. Students who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. Collective Worship themes should reflect the Christian vision, associated values of the school and the Christian calendar. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included on the website/social media/school newsletter. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and Inspire tutors will re-enforce this during Inspire time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

There are weekly meetings between the Chaplain and the Personal Development lead to discuss the themes and content for Inspire and Collective Worship. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Academy will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy. The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the Vice Principal and the Governors.

Evaluation of Collective Worship is undertaken regularly by SLT, Head of RE and the Chaplain via learning walks. Students' feedback is collected periodically – e.g. through Student Voice. This information is used to inform future changes/adaptations to the planning, delivery and execution of Collective Worship.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all learners. (This can take place at any time during the academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all learners, or separate acts of worship in Academy groups). We understand that simply holding an 'assembly' that includes a prayer, said either by the leader or everyone present, does not fulfill this requirement. We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and 'assembly' are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the academy's trust deed and reflect the Anglican and Roman Catholic status of the academy. In addition to the daily Collective Worship, special celebrations may take place in churches within the locality.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

The legal requirements for collective worship are laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act and in the Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (1993 – 1994), which was essentially an attempt to explain and enhance the 1988 Act. It states that collective worship: **'Should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes'**. It also states these acts of worship must be **"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character**" for the majority of the time. They must also be **"appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

Also, the requirement to promote **British values** as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

By **wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character**, in this Academy we mean that students will have the opportunity to explore:-

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of His creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the core Christian values and concepts;
- significant and prominent Christians and persons of faith;
- the cycle of the Church year.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our Academy community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. A parent who has a concern about the provision of Collective Worship should, in the first instance contact the Chaplain or a member of the senior leadership team. This should be followed by written confirmation.
The academy has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is to be set by the academy or followed in this time.

The right to withdraw doesn't extend to Year Group Collective Worship.