

Collective Worship Policy

At Charter Academy, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our Christian values.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and to celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, students, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the principal. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation:

- All Collective Worship must have a prayer and or reflection in it.
- All year groups have one year group Collective Worship a week.
- Tutors are to hold daily acts of Collective Worship.
- Tutors have the choice to either complete all activities in one tutor time or 5 minutes each day spread across the week. There has to be a prayer/reflection regardless of which way they choose to structure their tutor time.
- Once every term there is a whole school Collective Worship.

Leading worship:

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school, guest speakers and from the local Church community. Children 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 faiths within the area help us to increase the students' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the students who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. All tutors are given a skeleton PowerPoint to use for planning the Collective Worship. The content and

activities included in worship link to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the students (for example International Women's Week). Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities alongside traditional elements of worship, such as prayer. 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 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. Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. Our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Other Faiths:

At Ark Charter Academy, our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith, stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of students' beliefs. The classed acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Christian values.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to contact the school directly.