



Sponsored by Academy Transformation Trust

Collective Worship

Adopted	June 2014
Date of Review	May 2017

*Inspire,
Aspire,
Achieve!*

RATIONALE

As a multi-cultural school, drawing students from diverse cultural, racial and religious backgrounds, we recognise the importance of providing direct opportunities for fostering equality of opportunity for all students and for engendering tolerance, mutual respect and moral values in our young people.

Inherent in The Hathaway Academy's mission statement is both a desire and an obligation to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all students, remembering that all members of the school community are of equal importance regardless of their religious beliefs. An Act of Collective Worship is an important part of this process providing: *'an opportunity for students to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or 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'*. (DFE Circular 1/94)

This can be provided through the medium of a daily assembly or wherever a group of students meet together. The term 'worship' is not defined in legislation and we will take it in its ordinary meaning at The Hathaway Academy.

Tutor programmes will include reference to the Weekly Themes and provide opportunities for reflection and discussion. Aspects of the student work will reflect student skills in understanding, appreciating and working with others' moral, cultural and spiritual differences.

Displays in subject areas and around the school will take every opportunity to draw in diverse cultural references.

Staff will provide a good role model to students by modelling relationships based on mutual respect and courtesy and by challenging inappropriate language and actions (e.g. racist, sexist or homophobic comments). Staff should be aware that every contact with students provides the opportunity to develop attitudes, skills and understanding.

Aim:

- To provide Acts of Collective Worship which are:
 - Wholly, mainly and broadly of a Christian character
 - Reflecting broad traditions of Christian belief
 - In any one term a majority of Christian character
- To provide Collective worship that is:
 - Daily
 - For all registered students (see Appendix A for withdrawal of students)
 - On the school premises
 - Non-denominational
 - Acceptable to the whole school community
 - Includes a variety of elements at different times
 - Involves the students
- To provide Collective Worship that takes the form of a single act, or in separate acts for students in different age groups. This may include the assembling together of a registration group.

- To provide these Acts of Collective worship at an agreed time, currently during the morning registration period.
- To provide through the Acts of Collective Worship, opportunities to stimulate the minds of students with issues that they may not discover in other parts of the school curriculum.
- To reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities, whilst at the same time acknowledging that the content of such acts will be necessarily of a different character from worship amongst a group with common beliefs.
- To provide a sense of occasion which positively encourages integrity and freedom of thought through a variety of media.
- To portray 'Best Educational Practice' and to reflect the need for breadth and balance, and the Every Child Matters agenda.
- To acknowledge and celebrate through the nature of the delivery of Collective Worship that the students come from different family backgrounds, and have different ages and aptitudes.
- To promote the use of visiting speakers from a variety of backgrounds to provide new experiences for our school community. (Appendix B has Guidelines for visitors leading Collective Worship).
- To develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.

Targets:

- To instil in our students a sense of 'spirituality'.
- To produce young people who share moral values, such as love, justice, honesty etc.
- To provide all students with an opportunity to enquire, participate and reflect wherever appropriate.
- To produce a school community that values and celebrates achievement.
- To provide a vital ingredient to the broad, balanced curriculum offered to the students and central to the school's ethos: "Learning for Life".

Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed every three years to assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

(Policies: Collective Worship)

APPENDIX A

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Hathaway Academy appreciates that in certain cases parents may wish to withdraw their children from Acts of Collective Worship and under the Education Acts of 1944, 1988 and 1993 are at liberty to do so. Parents, by law, do not have to explain the reasons for requesting their child's withdrawal but in a practical sense withdrawal could take place in two forms:

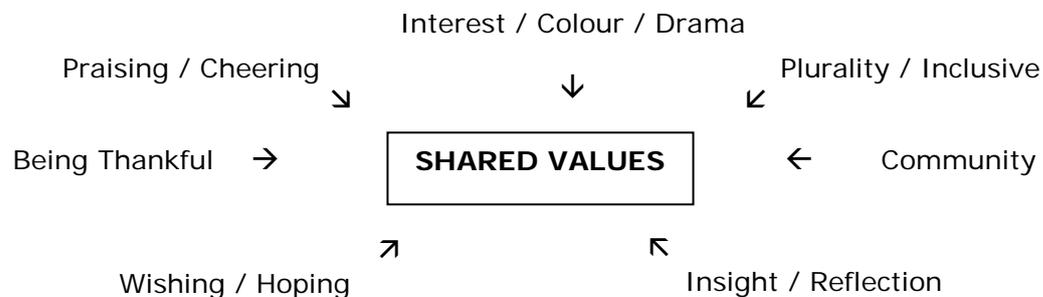
- a) Total withdrawal from the place where the act is taking place (the school is still responsible for supervision).
- b) The student may remain in the place where Collective Worship is taking place, but does not take part in it.

APPENDIX B

GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS LEADING/PARTICIPATING IN AN ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In the first instance, on behalf of the Academy, I would like to thank you for agreeing to participate in what we believe to be an extremely important part of this Academy's life. A working policy on Collective Worship is followed and you are welcome to a copy of this document which will explain in greater depth our aims. However, in short, there are certain points which are applicable to all speakers:

- Collective Worship at this Academy follows a "theme for the week" and all speakers should base their delivery around this topic.
- The act of Collective Worship at this Academy is an inclusive occasion when all should feel they can contribute, gain and feel valued as persons whatever their beliefs or lifestyle.
- Being a school the content of each act should be appropriately designed to cater for the age, aptitude and family background of those students taking part.
- Collective Worship at this Academy is non-denominational and although it may reflect Christian attitudes and beliefs it should have at its core the notion that shared values are of importance to those from all walks of life.



Acts of Collective Worship should finish promptly.