



Towngate Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
October 2020	October 2021	Ms Sharon Lockett	Jo Crook

We believe that in our regular collective worship, when all members of the academy come together, we try to create an experience which produces a variety of responses, one of which is worship. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

We acknowledge the 1988 Education Reform Act which clearly states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Therefore, we base all our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church.

We believe we must conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy. Therefore, throughout the academic year we will hold assemblies that reflect other religions as we want all children to feel included whatever their beliefs or background.

We would like everyone to take an active part in our collective worship but we are aware that teachers have the right to withdraw from the religious element of collective worship. We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship.

We acknowledge that children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. We will ensure that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

Aims

- To provide all pupils with an opportunity to worship;
- To show pupils how to worship by participating and responding;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote and embed a common ethos with shared values and positive attitudes.

We value, seek to understand, and identify the potential in everyone. Through collective worship we promote values, which include:

- British democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs (and no faith)
- Unicef Rights of the Child

How does Collective Worship Link to UNICEF CRC?

At Towngate Primary Academy, we ensure that the Rights of the Children are embedded through all learning opportunities, collective worship included. We have a themed Picture News assembly every week, which is often linked to the UNICEF CRC so that pupils can see how their rights are being met. During assembly on a Friday, the Star of the Week awards are linked to this theme and right to also help increase pupils awareness. See below how collective worship links to the UNICEF CRC Articles:

Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority

. Article 6 – Every child has the right to develop to their full potential.

Article 12 – Every child has the right to express their views.

Article 13 – Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions.

Article 19 – Every child must be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

Article 23 – Every child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life.

Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education.

Article 42 – Children and adults must know about the convention.

Procedure

Role of the Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The GB has:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ responsibility to ensure that the academy complies with this policy;▪ delegated powers and responsibilities to the Head of academy to ensure collective worship takes place in the academy;▪ nominated a link governor to visit the academy regularly, to liaise with the coordinator and to report back to the GB;▪ responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy
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Role of the Head of academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head of academy will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ensure that regular collective worship takes place in the academy; ▪ nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the organisation and development of this policy but is aware that teachers cannot be directed to conduct collective worship; ▪ monitor the effectiveness of this policy
Role of the Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordinator will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lead the development of collective worship throughout the academy; ▪ provide guidance and support to all staff; ▪ keep up to date with new developments and resources; ▪ keep up to date with new guidance and legal requirements; ▪ review and monitor; ▪ annually report to the GB on the success and development of collective worship
Role of Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During assembly time we encourage pupils to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ dignified and respectful; ▪ calm and reflective ▪ able to behave in an appropriate manner; ▪ quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully • We want children to participate not only in the hymns and prayers but to show their work and to raise issues that they have discussed in class.
Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education Reform Act states that collective worship need no longer be at the start of the academy day, and worship may take place in a single act of worship or separate acts of worship in different age groups. • We have decided to hold a daily act of worship in each key stage and at different times. • The beginning of any academy day is always hectic and we are concerned that rushing pupils through registration and then into the hall for worship is devaluing the occasion and making the

	<p>pupils unsettled. Therefore, our aim is to move our time of worship to before and after mid-morning break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be occasions when worship, because of unforeseen circumstances, will take place in individual classrooms and be conducted by class teachers.
Length, Time and Pace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are aware that we have to fulfill a statutory amount of teacher-pupil contact time namely, 22½ hours for infants and 23½ hours for juniors. Collective worship is not included in this time. Therefore, our collective worship will be kept to 15 minutes with several minutes being allowed for the pupils coming in making a maximum of no more than 20 minutes.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music should be played at the beginning and end of collect worship which, if possible, fits in with the theme for the week. • Singing – songs should be chosen to reflect the theme for the week or the day. • Prayers/reflection - the children should be introduced to several prayers or opportunities for reflection which we encourage them to participate in. • Provider - the provider may be the Head of academy, Deputy Head, class teacher, pupils, vicar, or outside speaker. • Theme - the theme to follow will be that planned by the co-ordinator.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In planning collective acts of worship we must bear in mind the following activities: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ singing, readings and storytelling, rituals, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting speakers and cooking
Planning the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning the year the co-ordinator will think carefully about the inclusion of the following :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High days and holidays ▪ Saint Days ▪ Feasting for Festivals ▪ World Faiths ▪ National ▪ World/Local Events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for the academic year will take place before the end of each half term and all staff will then be given a year plan of the proposed collective acts of worship.
Involvement of Local Religious Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.
Involvement of Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We actively encourage the involvement of outside speakers such as the local Police etc. who will be invited to take an active part in our collective worship on a set theme.
Involvement of Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents will be invited to attend a weekly celebration assembly.
Achievements Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assembly on Friday morning is an occasion when the whole academy meets to share together the successes and achievements of individual pupils either in or out of academy. Also, Dojo points are awarded and birthdays celebrated.
Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.