



**embrace
challenge:
expect
excellence**

THE DEANES

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



The Deanes Collective Worship Policy

Context and Requirements:

The Ofsted Handbook (2015) offers a way of thinking about spiritual development for pupils as 1) the ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values; 2) sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them; 3) use of imagination and creativity in their learning; and 4) willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Law

School Standards and Framework Act 1998, ss.70-71 and Schedule 20 (as amended). Schools must ensure that (subject to the disapplication procedure, considered below) pupils 'on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.'

For schools which have a designated religious character, the acts of worship must be in accordance with the religious character of the schools. Worship in community schools without a religious character must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Collective worship is of a broadly Christian character 'if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.' Such schools may provide some acts of worship that are not 'Christian' if there are circumstances relating to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils which are relevant for determining the character of the collective worship. However, the majority of acts during a school term must nevertheless be entirely or mainly 'Christian' in nature.

A school may apply for a disapplication of the Christian collective worship requirement to allow a school or a group within it to hold a separate form of collective worship. Academies and free schools without a religious character are required to provide collective worship in line with each school's funding agreement with the Government. These agreements mirror the above requirements set out for community schools under the 1998 Act. Foundation schools that are not of a religious character must provide a daily act of collective worship in line with the trust deeds of the school and in accordance with the policy of the governors.

In all schools there is a parental right to withdraw children from collective worship. Sixth formers have an independent right of withdrawal.

Policy Statement

The Deanes is an Academy without a religious character.

This policy is designed to ensure that this school complies with the statutory requirement for a daily act of collective worship.

The Aims of the Policy

The aim of this collective worship policy is to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop the ability to be reflective about values that are of a broadly Christian and their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values.
- Develop a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.

Procedure

Responsible Person

The Head will be responsible under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for arranging a daily act of worship after consultation with the governing body.

The Head will delegate direct responsibility to Director of Key Stage supported by the SMSC co-ordinator.

The daily collective worship will be mainly of a broadly Christian nature with reference to other major religions.

Implementation

The act of worship will be fulfilled through pupil assemblies and tutor activities.

- There will be at least one assembly per term dedicated specifically to Christian Festivals which will, where possible, be linked to corresponding festivals in other religious traditions.
- There will be time in tutor time to reflect on the thought for the week which will be religious or philosophical in nature.
- Assemblies will normally be based on the thought for the week.

On special occasions the governing body, in consultation with the Head, may arrange for this act of worship to take place somewhere other than in the school.

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve and engage the pupils.

Withdrawal of Pupils

The school will comply with parents' or carers' requests that their child be excused from religious education or worship.

In the event of such a request, the Head will endeavour to establish why withdrawal has been requested. The Head will try to establish if, in consultation with the governors, some alternative provision can be arranged.

Review of the Policy

The governors will review this policy every 3 years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Signed by:

**Chair of the Curriculum
Committee:**

Headteacher:

Date:

24th January 2017