



Inspiring All to Excellence



Edge Hill Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Document Control

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Vision and Aims:

The Collective Worship Policy at Edge Hill Academy pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act.

At Edge Hill we believe that learning should be fun, purposeful and challenging. Through our broad and stimulating curriculum we aim to equip all children with the knowledge and skills they need for lifelong learning. We believe that every child matters and through positive attitudes and partnership we endeavour to develop the whole child meeting individual needs so that have the confidence to 'believe in themselves, achieve and shine every day'

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Edge Hill Academy and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can: ▪ share common aims and values ▪ celebrate achievement and special times ▪ explore together the world in which we live ▪ develop a community spirit For the Pupils:

It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public-Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Rationale and Principles

The purpose of collective worship is to ensure that pupils are exposed to a wide range of cultural, spiritual and religious experiences. In line with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, daily collective worship is provided for all pupils by the school [apart from those that are withdrawn by their parents]. Our aim is to meet the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual and moral needs of all children. Thus, we aim to develop children's respect for a diverse and multicultural global society. Collective worship whether in assembly or in class will be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils. It will also include a variety of elements at different times involving all pupils.

Approaches to Collective Worship

The school and its governors are committed to providing weekly acts of collective worship for all pupils because of the key role this plays in the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of pupils and because of the contribution it makes to the ethos of the school.

Collective worship takes place in the hall or classroom in an atmosphere that is conducive to worship and reflection. Opportunities are provided for whole school, phase and class worship. Included in daily worship are class assemblies where selected pupils are invited to share their learning and reflections with staff and pupils from other classes and year groups.

In line with Teaching and Learning and Religious Education Policies at Edge Hill Academy, leaders of collective worship consistently:

- Encourage children to enjoy being challenged, to ask questions and not be afraid of making mistakes.
- Use children's specific interests, prior knowledge, questions to guide learning and encourage involvement.
- Use a range of visual, auditory and kinesthetic styles.
- Introduce learning in the most effective way for the learning objective, enabling flexible, imaginative, creative and inspiring delivery of collective worship.
- Use questions and encourage pupil contribution to motivate, guide and challenge all learners.
- Encourage children to extend their learning at home, valuing and sharing children's contributions and home learning.
- Use other adults, including visitors from the local and wider community, within collective worship effectively sharing their experience and expertise.
- Use a multi-sensory approach to learning (E.g.: Film clips, music, sounds, ICT, the environment, artefacts, and interesting items).
- Make children aware of their role and responsibilities as global citizens in a multicultural society through fund raising, school based activities such as harvest festival and links with schools in other countries.

Planning

A framework for weekly collective worship themes is in place, incorporating the exploration of religious and moral themes, religious festivals and global issues. This guides those leading acts of collective worship on the content to be covered. Opportunities are also taken to reflect on current local, national and international issues. Some assemblies are now also linked to the themes and topics being covered within the RE curriculum, which ensures coverage is thorough.

Outside agencies and visitors are also invited to lead collective worship with pupils, including, Barnardos, and other charity organisations.

Meeting the needs of All

Pupils and staff who do not come from a Christian background are still able to feel included in acts of worship through exploration of multicultural and moral themes.

- No pupil or teacher is expected to demonstrate allegiance to a belief or community or take part in practices that are not in keeping with their own commitment, e.g. pupils are invited to have quiet reflection or take part in prayer.
- The school acknowledges the right of pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. Where a request is made, discussions take place and appropriate action is agreed.
- Leaders of collective worship demonstrate an awareness and sensitivity towards religious, racial and gender issues [refer also to the Equal Opportunities/Race Equality Policy].

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public-Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school policy will be reviewed annually and monitored for implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the policy also to contribute to the development and delivery of collective worship in school. All staff are responsible for the implementation of the policy.