

We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools strengthening communities through excellent education.



Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility for approval: Senior Executive

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1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools, strengthening our communities through excellent education.

2.0 Scope and purpose

2.1 The Trust, comprised of both secular and church schools believes that collective acts of worship should support and strengthen what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We value the opportunities in the school day for children to develop a reflective approach to life and their ability to express their thoughts, either as a religious belief or secular reflection.

3.0 Definition

3.1 For the purpose of this document:

- The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust is referred to as **the Ted Wragg Trust or TWT** or **the Trust**

4.0 Legal Framework

This Policy will be published on our Trust website and will be included in the Trust's Policy Monitoring Schedule.

5.0 What constitutes collective worship

5.1 An academy's funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for an act of collective worship in local authority maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70. Academies should follow paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's guidance on collective worship in schools in which every pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation.

5.2 Those academies with a religious designation must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy's designated faith. The above also applies to former voluntary-controlled or foundation schools with a religious designation that have converted to academies. They must provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the academy's designated faith.

5.3 Academies without a religious designation must provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community, as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.

5.4 The Trust recognises the diverse composition of all those within the Trust community (those from different faith backgrounds as well as those of none) and thus takes care to ensure that any collective acts of worship do not act to preach to, or attempt to convert children to any particular faith or denomination.

5.5 Where the Trust has been notified and is supportive, individual schools without a religious designation can apply to the local authority's SACRE. This is called a "determination", and alternative worship must be provided for these pupils, although parents still have the right to have their children excused from this worship. These exemptions are covered by Schedule 20 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

6.0 Parents can withdraw their child from collective worship

6.1 Parents/Carers can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship under the terms of The Education Reform Act 1988 S.9 (3). A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.

6.2 A child over the age of 16 can also request to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship. A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.

6.3 Every request will be respected and the individual arrangements for the child, and how the child's withdrawal can be accommodated, will be discussed with the parents/carers.

7.0 Aims of collective worship

7.1 At All Saints, our vision is inspired by the words of Jesus:

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

This promise shapes our aspiration that every member of our school community will flourish. We believe education should nurture the whole person: spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

Our school values of Love, Legacy and Bravery guide how we live out this vision each day.

- Love calls us to treat one another with compassion, dignity and respect.
- Bravery encourages us to act with courage, integrity and perseverance.
- Legacy reminds us that our choices matter and that we can contribute positively to the world.

7.2 Collective worship is central to expressing and nurturing this vision. It is where our community gathers to reflect on life's meaning, celebrate shared values and consider how we can live well together.

7.3 Through worship we encourage pupils and adults to develop wisdom, hope and a commitment to justice so that each person is empowered to live life to the full and help others to flourish too. In this way, we collectively meet our school's mission to provide transformational education and provide experiences that enable the whole community to flourish.

7.4 A moment of 'collective worship' is different to a moment of 'corporate worship'. Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs; for example, when a church gathers on a Sunday and worships God through song and prayer. In collective worship, there is no assumption that those present share the same set of beliefs. Therefore, at All Saints a moment of collective worship is inclusive and invitational; everyone present is invited to engage, whether of any religious faith or none.

7.5 Our moments of collective worship take place primarily through reflection in tutorial, assemblies and other moments of assembly.

7.6 At All Saints, Collective Worship aims to:

Enable students to explore the Christian faith and other beliefs and begin to shape their own beliefs and worldview. Through this, pupils will explore the meaning of living life to the full.

We do this by:

- Encouraging consideration of and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Promoting relational awareness; your relationship with your self, others, the world and God.
- Providing opportunities to encounter God through prayer and/or to reflect on how to respond to a particular question or issue.

- Mark significant occasions, including the festivals of Christmas and Easter.
- Enable students to understand the importance of the Eucharist to Christians.

Strengthen and support the school community through fostering a sense of belonging and identity. This is supported through the embedding of our school values of Love, Legacy & Bravery.

We do this by

- Celebrating each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Giving expression to, reaffirming and practising the values of the school community, particularly of showing respect, giving hope and being inclusive.
- Celebrating and giving thanks for achievements within the school and further afield.
- Providing the opportunity to grieve or mourn when appropriate.
- Ensuring students feel safe and affirmed.
- Cultivating a concern for the needs of others and provide an opportunity to respond.
- Inspire compassionate and courageous action in the wider world.

Reflect the rich diversity amongst human beings and the wide range of ways in which people can worship.

We do this by:

- Involving students and staff in preparation and acts of collective worship, ensuring that a voice is given to students and staff from minority groups.
- Drawing on Gary Thomas' *Sacred Pathways* as a way of understanding spiritual growth and diversity in worship.
- Making use of a variety of traditions and enable students to experience a range of styles in which to worship.

8.0 Quality Assurance of Collective Worship

8.1 At All Saints, we recognise that although Collective Worship can take many forms, it should contain the following elements:

- Follow the Gather, Engage, Respond, Send Model
- Be invitational – no child is forced to prayer, nor made to reflect. Our aim is to create an environment and habit where the natural inclination of humans to engage reflectively occurs.
- Be informed by our Christian Tradition or by acts of social justice.

8.2 We quality assure collective worship through:

- Observation, through our coaching programme.
- Deliberate Practice, during CPD time.
- Through pupil and staff voice
- Through discussion with local clergy and community groups
- Through our Ethos Committee
- Via our Trust SIAMs links and learning walks

9.0 Reflection rooms

- 9.1 The Trust recognises that, if requested by children, families or staff, that it is good practice- where practicable, to provide a facility that permits worship of religions and beliefs.
- 9.2 Therefore, the policy of the Trust is, if requested, to take an inclusive approach towards providing, where practicable, a quiet room for use by any member of the school community. Such a room could be for prayer or personal reflection. If requested and practicable, the school will consult with pupils to ensure availability of the room in order to meet their needs.
- 0.3 Under the terms of the 1988 Education Reform Act, children are permitted to leave school premises to receive religious education. Parents should make such requests in writing to the Headteacher. Following the Muslim Council of Britain guidance, the Trust is to make suitable arrangements for Muslim pupils to receive such education in school if requested, thus negating the need for such permissions.