



WEDNESFIELD HIGH SPECIALIST ENGINEERING ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Policy adopted by the LAB of:		Date:	
Signed by the Chair of the LAB:		Print:	

1. Introduction

All maintained schools are required to organise an act of daily collective worship for registered students in order to promote their moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy is sensitive to the individual beliefs and faiths of all members of the academy and recognises different types of religious faiths and beliefs.

All students are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of religious education within the curriculum. Collective worship which is provided in a programme of assemblies and tutor periods known as 'Lesson 7' are a time for the whole academy to reflect on spiritual, moral and social and cultural issues.

2. Aims

This policy aims at:

- Enabling students to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.
- Encouraging participation and response, via active involvement or through listening and joining in the worship offered.
- Providing children and young people the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Providing a peaceful environment enabling stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Helping students develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Developing a spirit of community and an understanding of the feelings of people with different beliefs.
- Acknowledging diversity and affirming each person's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promoting a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforcing positive attitudes.

3. Meaning of 'Collective Worship'

According to the Education Act 1988, 'worship' must reflect something special or separate from ordinary academy activities and it should be concerned with reverence paid to a divine being or power.

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and the difference should be clear.

'Taking part' in collective worship implies that it should elicit a response from students, even if some students may not be able to actively identify with the act of worship.

4. Organisation and Planning

- The Headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Governing Body.
- The act of worship will be reflected through the academy 'moments of reflection' programme for the academy year.
- Each assembly will usually have a theme relevant to current affairs and the scheduled themes for the week.

- The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to students of all ages and backgrounds.
- Visitors or guest speakers may sometimes be invited to speak or perform in line with the weekly theme. However, they must not enforce a certain belief or way of thinking and must also ensure that they comply with the collective worship policy.

5. Implementation

Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to student's needs, age and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging students to reflect and contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage student's interests.
- Involving students in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers etc.

6. Central Attribute of Collective Worship

Central attributes of collective worship at Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy involve:

- Gathering – making significant this part of the day through an appropriate ceremony.
- Engaging – using a variety of available techniques to engage students and stimulate interests.
- Responding – making sure that there is opportunity and time for all individuals to think and reflect.

7. Right of Withdrawal

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship without stating a reason for doing so. However, they are encouraged to discuss their decision with the Headteacher and the following, particularly in regard to:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part in.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require advance notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

8. Children with SEND

Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy will take into account students of different ages and abilities when organising a collective worship programme, and will ensure that content is thought-provoking for every student, regardless of their academic ability. Teaching Assistants will be arranged for individual students if the need arises.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

This is annually undertaken by students, staff and Governors. Student are involved in evaluation of collective worship via feedback from questionnaires and class discussions. All leaders should contribute to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in order to improve its impact on students.