



Procedure Document

Collective Worship/Assemblies

November 2011



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP				
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Academy Procedure				
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For public access on request <i>Tick as appropriate</i>			Lead Academy Staff/Director	
Post		Online		Head of RE
Notes				

Background

In our Academy of 1200 students a daily assembly/collective act of worship is impractical. We do not have a room big enough to accommodate all the students and the staff that would be needed to accompany them. Such a large gathering would, in any case present problems of physical control and Health and Safety. This being the case, it is our policy to focus upon providing a stimulating programme of assemblies addressed to individual Year Groups. These take place in Upper School Hall each day. Each Year Group attends one assembly each week. As only one Year Group is present the assembly can be 'tailored' to the needs of that age group. Subject matter can be varied, as can the complexity of the language used and underlying concepts.

We have rejected any approach which would have seen several or all Year Groups attending assembly in succession during the course of each day. Such approaches are too disruptive to learning and the delivery of the curriculum.

Content

The content of our programme of assemblies is very wide ranging. Staff who volunteer to take assemblies draw upon their own interests, life experiences, issues currently in the news, matters of concern to our and future generations, moral and ethical issues. Tutor Groups are also encouraged to take responsibility for delivery of assemblies, especially within KS3. The 'Academy as a community' and 'being a part of our wider community', are frequent topics that appear in many guises. The underlying perspective that pervades most of our assemblies is one that is shared, not only by Christians, but by followers of many faiths. It is one in which we explore issues of, 'fairness', our duties towards one another, right and wrong, tolerance of others views and ways of life.

We live in a multi-cultural society in an age in which regular attendance at church or other places of worship is something undertaken by a very small and declining proportion of the population. We believe it is totally inappropriate to force students to undertake formal acts of worship in the Academy. Students are not instructed to pray. They are given the opportunity to do so in some assemblies. More frequently they are given the opportunity to spend a few moments thinking about an issue and their personal response to it.

Our programme of assemblies includes some taken by visitors to the Academy. Prominent amongst these are members of the local clergy. As would be expected, on these occasions assemblies contain a more direct Christian message. As with other assemblies they are well received by our students. The expertise of our visitors adds to the rich and varied programme we are able to provide. We continue to seek visitors from other faiths to speak in assembly.

Assemblies are also used for other purposes, notably communication and celebration. The latter, in which the many wide ranging achievements of students are made known, compliments many other topics and further adds to the ongoing development of our Academy ethos.

Parents' right to withdraw their child

Parents are made aware of this right through the prospectus or whenever they contact the Academy over assemblies. However very few actually choose to do so.

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