

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



Collective Worship Policy

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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worship in schools in which every pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves.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.

6.2A 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.

6.3Every 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

7.1At St Luke's Church of England School we recognise that it is possible to worship God in all areas of life, whether through doing excellent research, demonstrating kindness to another student or playing music. One way that we encourage this is through 'big questions' that heads of departments have identified for their curriculum area. Equally, we recognise that there are particular moments which are termed as worship.

7.2A 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 St Luke's a moment of collective worship is inclusive and invitational; everyone present is invited to engage, whether of any religious faith or none.

7.3Collective worship should enable students and staff to flourish, which is central to Jesus' offer of 'life to the full'. It is an opportunity for students and staff to explore 'life to the full', experience something of that life, be equipped and express our school values, particularly through showing respect, giving hope and being inclusive.

7.4Our moments of collective worship take place primarily through 'Mindful Moments' in tutorial, assemblies and moments of reflection.

7.5At St Luke's Church of England School Collective Worship aims to:

Enable students to explore the Christian faith and other beliefs and begin to shape their own beliefs and worldview.

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.

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.

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.
- Making use of many different curriculum areas in worship, for example music, art, drama, poetry, IT.
- Making use of a variety of traditions and enable students to experience a range of styles in which to worship.

8.0 Reflection rooms

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 5.3. 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.

9.0 Monitoring

9.1 Collective worship will be monitored by:

1. The Ethos Committee (termly). This discussion will include:
 - Review of content and methodology
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience
 - Resources and budget
 - CPD
2. Annual review of the coordination of collective worship with the Senior Leadership Team and the Ethos Committee.
3. Student voice that feeds into the ethos committee.
4. Attendance at worship by Governors for monitoring purposes
5. Confirming with the Diocesan Education Board that the requirements of the law are being met and that collective worship is in line with recommendations from the Church of England.