

The Priory Primary Academy Trust
Collective Worship Policy



January 2012
Reviewed annually by the governing body

Introduction

This policy explains the arrangements for collective worship at The Priory Primary Academy Trust and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

The legal requirements for collective worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises
- the Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for collective worship are met
- the character and content of collective worship is reviewed annually by the governing body
- all staff, including the Head Teacher, have the legal right to withdraw from the act of collective worship
- the Head Teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

The aims of collective worship

The government requires all schools to provide an act of collective worship. At the academy we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of collective worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- praise
- thanks
- reflection
- saying sorry
- celebration
- sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our collective worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so.

The approach to collective worship

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things the school community believes are important. These experiences will include:

- the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- drama
- dance
- poetry
- music
- mime
- TV/video/radio programmes.

The organisation of collective worship

There is an act of collective worship every day which may take one of the following forms:

- Good Work Assembly
- Good Citizenship Assembly
- Hymn Practice (with closing prayer)
- Class Assembly (on a rota, once a term)
- Year 6 Assembly

The acts of worship follow themes which support the aims of the school.

Acts of worship are occasionally held in the Parish church e.g. at Christmas and Harvest. The 'hymn practice' assembly provides an opportunity to look carefully at some of the songs we use and collective worship stems from this.

All parents are advised in the school prospectus of their right to withdraw their children from the collective worship.

Resources for collective worship

These are available in the staff room and from the Head Teacher. We also use on-line assemblies from the internet.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school prospectus and asked to contact the Head Teacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given for withdrawal. Any staff member has the right to withdraw.

No pupils or staff withdraw from collective worship currently.

Ofsted

Collective worship is inspected as part of the normal Ofsted procedure.

Taking collective worship

Occasionally collective worship may be taken by visitors including those by the local churches and charities.