

St Margaret's Academy – Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision and Values

Vision

We want ourselves and the children in our care to be successful, resilient and inquisitive learners who are happy and well-equipped to participate positively in the community and wider society.

Values

Our school values (*kindness, respect, responsibility and aspiration*) are an essential point of reference on all of our journeys. British values (*democracy, rule of law, liberty and respect*) play an equally important role.

Why have acts of Collective Worship at St. Margaret's?

At St. Margaret's Collective Worship is much more than a legal requirement. It is a time to stop, breathe, think and come together.

What collective worship brings to our school

- A time when school comes together as a community
- A time to balance the 'what' of academic pursuits with the 'why' found in spiritual reflection
- A time for spirituality and stillness, connecting the inner with the outer
- A time to reflect on stories of inspiration, struggle and hope
- A time for sharing and reflection, where any prayers are inclusive and invitational
- A time when the school family gathers to support each other
- A time to communicate and live out the shared values and expectations of the school

Intent

Collective Worship at St. Margaret's Academy is important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by students, staff and any visitors in school are also very welcome to join us.

Rationale

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come.

The school will offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

At St Margaret's Academy Collective Worship we aim to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member.
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to;
 - Experience stillness and quiet
 - Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, story that lead to personal reflection
 - Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Leadership, planning and evaluation of collective worship

The head teacher is responsible for planning whole school acts of Collective Worship and other adults link their acts of Collective Worship throughout the week to the head teacher's theme. The calendar for Collective Worship draws on the Church year, our Jigsaw PSHE programme, other special days and events, and our school values.

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. All those leading collective worship, whether whole school or class based, are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

All pupils attend an Act of Collective Worship/Assembly each day unless their parents have withdrawn them. These acts are organised on a rota and include whole school, key stage and class-based worship.

A record is kept of Collective Worship and the headteacher is responsible for keeping this record.

Music and art as a part of our act of worship

Music is often played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship where appropriate to the theme as we see music as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories, emotions of visual images.

The music, instrumental or vocal, may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This listening time is also used to introduce children to;

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

Visitors to school

Visitors leading collective worship will be given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship.

The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended.

A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme.

Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign in and may not be left with the children unless a member of the school staff is present. They will be thanked as they leave the building.

Collective Worship and the Law.

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998