

## Policy on Collective Worship

St Mary Magdalene Academy is a Christian community of learning. We aim to nurture young people to become high achievers and to discover their vocation in the global society.

“Show by a good life that your works are done by gentleness born of wisdom”  
James 3.13

### Aim

Collective worship at St Mary Magdalene Academy should provide the opportunity for reflection on God’s creative and redemptive power enabling an understanding of the awe and wonder of his powers and nurture the Christian faith within the Academy community.

This is achieved through:

- A daily act of collective Christian worship in the Academy
- A weekly theme and prayer in the ‘Bulletin’
- Services of Holy Communion
- Music, hymns and songs as a celebration of faith
- A regular Open Prayer for the Academy and its Community
- Services recognising the special days within the life of the Church and the Academy
- Links with St Mary Magdalene’s, St David’s, St Luke’s and other churches
- Weekly class services for the Primary Department.

The policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Religious Education Policy
- The Solihull Scheme of Work for Primary RE
- The Religious Study Scheme for KS 3 and 4

**Adopted:**

## **Policy on Collective Worship**

### **1 Aims and objectives**

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

### **2 Collective worship**

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the Academy coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, where possible, we will make connections that embrace all faiths and beliefs. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is both inclusive and sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the Academy.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our Academy are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the Academy and the wider community.

### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-Academy assembly, phase, key stage or a class assemblies.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the senior staff or other members of staff, but are also led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the Academy curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of Academy. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Mary Magdalene Academy is based on a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.6 Each week, there is a particular assembly that parents/carers are invited to attend in KS 1 and 2. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the Academy and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. In KS 3, parents/carers will be invited to out termly achievement celebration assemblies. Parents/carers are also invited to join us at end of term services and other relevant services throughout the Academy year.
- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.
- 3.8 Church services will form part of the life of the Academy and will follow the Christian calendar.
- 3.9 Parents/carers and governors will be invited to assemblies and church services.
- 3.10 Services of Holy Communion will be offered to confirmed students.

#### 4 **Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent/carers can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the Academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents/carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The SLT keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

#### 5 **Monitoring and review**

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named Academy governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the SLT before reporting to the governors.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair of Governors)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_