



St Mary  
Magdalene  
Academy

# THE COURTYARD

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Courtyard aims to offer an outstanding educational and social provision that will equip our students with the skills and experiences needed to discover and live out their potential.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - POLICY STATEMENT

### ST MARY MAGDALENE ACADEMY THE COURTYARD

<b>Approval Committee:</b>	<b>Full Governing Body</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Head of The Courtyard</b>
<b>Last reviewed:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017</b>
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<b>Required to publish on website?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Statutory?</b>	<b>Yes</b>

# **Collective Worship Policy**

The Courtyard School is a Free School. It is part of the St Mary Magdalene Educational Partnership Trust so therefore it is part of that Christian community of learning. We aim to nurture young people to become high achievers and to discover their vocation in the global society.

## **Policy Statement**

The Collective Worship Policy at The Courtyard School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the St Mary Magdalene Educational Partnership Trust.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of The Courtyard School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in The Courtyard School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

## **The Management of Collective Worship**

This will be in partnership with St Mary Magdalene Academy. It will be delivered by the Headteacher and the Chaplain. Their role will be to plan, monitor, deliver and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

## **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised weekly as a whole school. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

## **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Planning of the programme will take into account themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources

which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

### **Withdrawal**

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.