



WORSHIP POLICY

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1. Policy Statement

The Brian Clarke Academy is a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian ethos that welcomes young people of all faiths and none. A multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-talented school community. We want all our students to be everything they can be and everything they are meant to be – to be able to live life in all its' fullness (John 10:10).

Assembly, worship, and reflection are an important part of the school day. It brings us together as a community to reflect on what is important and how we treat one another as members of a shared moral community where people are all valued as individuals. Collective worship and assemblies are therefore a key vehicle for pastoral care, as much as spirituality, reinforcing the messages which are central to young peoples' development as kind and respectful people who can care for themselves and one another, and whose lives are enriched by a spiritual dimension.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

- Worship embraces all members of the Brian Clarke community.
- Worship provides the opportunity for staff and students to explore what it means to have faith in themselves, the world around them and faith in God.
- Worship explores spiritual, moral and global issues central to student's lives.
- Worship seeks to develop a sense of community within the school and foster being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Worship aligns with the school's ethos, core, and pastoral curriculum to generate an understanding that there is so much more that unites us than divides us.
- Worship emphasises the importance of practising forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Worship develops knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, particularly the significance of Jesus and God's revelation through the Bible.
- Worship celebrates other faith traditions and provides an opportunity to celebrate shared values.
- Worship moves the school community to action as they can reflect how they can contribute to change through charity, campaigns, and courageous advocacy.
- Worship engages partnerships with the wider community.

3. Implementation of Collective Worship

The Trust Chaplain and Worship Coordinators from across the schools in the Trust meet three times a year. Together they agree upon the worship themes for the academic year. Each school is able to adapt the themes to suit the needs of their distinct context. The themes centre around Christian values and include British Values (such as love, forgiveness, justice).

Each theme runs for over two weeks with a different aspect of the theme focused on each week.

All students attend two formal acts of Collective Worship each week. One takes place in the school hall led by School Senior Leaders, Heads of Department (including RS, English, Geography and Science), the Trust Chaplain or visiting speakers (such as Oldham Parish Church) and is supported by the Worship Coordinator. The other takes place during form time and is known as Form Reflection. This is led by Form Tutors and is also supported by the Worship Coordinator.

Our approach to Collective Worship and Form Reflection is 'Gather-Engage-Reflect-Send'. Our aim is to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, allowing room for spiritual flourishing. Moments of quiet and opportunities for reflection are prioritized as well as a time of personal reflection/prayer. Collective Worship always ends with an encouragement to continue to reflect on the theme through further reading (links

shared to relevant books in the library), a challenge/action as well as a prompt to make use of the nomination boxes over the following days.

Form Reflection takes place the day after Collective Worship and provides an intimate, safe, inclusive space to dig deeper into the theme and develop spiritually. Resources are prepared and distributed by the Worship Coordinator who closely supports the form tutors.

Students and staff use the form nomination boxes to reflect on the theme and identify students who demonstrate it (such as writing a short message showing how someone has displayed kindness that week). Nomination slips are also located in pastoral offices, the Achievement for All (AfA) department and the library so that they are always to hand. During the fortnightly year group Celebration Assemblies, Heads of Year revisit the theme and read out a selection of nominations. Their assembly closes with a prayer relating to the theme.

Regular year group line-ups (three per day) are an ideal opportunity for Senior Leaders and Heads of Year to promote/celebrate our Christian vision and values and is another way that students are led to reflect and develop spiritually throughout the school day.

Key events in the Christian Calendar are celebrated each year (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost) as well as other faith events (Ramadan, Chinese New Year), significant days/months in the UK/global calendar (Black History Month, Environment Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembrance Day) and also special annual Brian Clarke days (such as Culture Day, Faith Day). The whole school visits Oldham Parish Church for our yearly Christmas Collective Worship led by Ethos Ambassadors, poets and musicians.

At key points in the year, leaders of other faiths are invited to take assembly (such as Ramadan).

Regular voluntary eucharists take place in our school hall led by Reverends from Oldham Parish Church (Advent and Lent).

Our multi faith prayer room is available for staff and students to use during break and lunchtime to aid prayer, stillness and reflection.

The student Ethos Ambassadors monitor the student prayer request box, which is accessible to all in the school library.

4. Rights of Withdrawal

At the Brian Clarke Academy we seek to create an environment where worship is invitational and inclusive. The attendance of students to collective worship and Religious Studies lessons is expected in that parents have applied for their child to attend a Church of England school and in doing so subscribe to the school's ethos, values, and day to day practises.

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from collective worship this must be made in writing and following a parental discussion with the Headteacher.

The school has a system for suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship however no additional work is set or followed in this time. The right of withdrawal does not extend to general assemblies or form time sessions.

5. Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship is treated like any other area of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivering, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

Senior Leads and any staff member responsible for delivering acts of Collective Worship plan high quality materials in line with the schools' principles for teaching and learning (overseen by the Worship Coordinator). Whilst the themes are set for the academic year, the pattern is flexible to respond appropriately if needed to local, national or global events.

Collective Worship is evaluated half termly by the Worship Coordinator in liaison with the Senior Leadership Team through quantitative measure on impacts of positive and negative behaviours as well as qualitative learning walks, pupils and staff voice. This data is responded to immediately if appropriate or informs long term improvement planning and is communicated appropriately with relevant staff. The Worship Coordinator shares regular weekly updates in the school bulletin, including the upcoming themes, so that all staff feel supported and the school's Christian vision and values remain at the heart of everything we do.