



**Shaw
Education
Trust**

Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed: 10th March 2025

Chair of Committee: Peter Cade

Next Review Date: 10th March 2028

Rationale

It is a legal requirement that all schools must provide “religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development”¹. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils. Ivy House School seeks to foster all pupils’ spiritual development, through Collective Worship experiences covering a wide variety of spiritual beliefs. The focus of these experiences is for pupils to become positive members of society, accepting their responsibilities as well as their rights and to help pupils to develop understanding and acceptance of the values of faiths, cultures and societies other than their own.

Families who send their children to this school are from a range of faith backgrounds, including Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish; in addition, there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is, therefore, not the practice of this school to impose views onto the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

The Headteacher, in consultation with the Academy Council, is responsible for ensuring the school offers a daily act of Collective Worship. Parents of a pupil at Ivy House School have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly, or partly, excused from attending Collective Worship at the school then we will comply with this. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher, so that suitable alternative arrangements for those pupils can be made within school.

Aims

Collective Worship should enhance the understanding and knowledge of the school community. The experiences should be inclusive and all members of the school should be made aware of the relevance of the activity, even though levels of participation, involvement, affirmation and challenge may vary.

We aim to:

- Develop pupils’ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and Fundamental British Values understanding.
- Provide opportunities to consider and explore their own beliefs and those of other people.
- Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.
- Promote respect for the integrity of individuals and faiths.

Acts of worship might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by

extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. This may draw on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff, whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. **In this way Collective Worship is inclusive and not exclusive.**

[1 – Government Circular – RE & Collective Worship Circular](#)

Planning

Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

In this school we carry out our Collective Worship within small groups, helping to ensure that worship takes place in a meaningful environment. Within **Lower School**, this is completed on a daily basis within class groups (usually after dinnertimes). In **Upper School**, the students work in class groups four days a week (at the start of dinnertimes) with one designated day assigned to collective worship as a whole department. Once a week Upper School students meet collectively, this is a time of reflection from the week and develops the skills mentioned above, with regards to social awareness and inclusivity. A member of the Senior Leadership Team within Upper School usually Co-ordinates the Upper School assembly.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. Therefore, we plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence

Evaluation of provision

At Ivy House School, we evaluate the effectiveness of our acts of worship through recording the pupils' involvement, enjoyment and attention during Collective Worship. This may be noted within the pupil's Evidence for Learning (EfL) evidence. We will discuss with stakeholders the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community and link this to a range of positive responses and enrichment of

pupil's experience, including external visitors and activities. We will share our work with all stakeholders, through newsletters and social media platforms in order to showcase our community's sense of well-being.

The subject lead for SMSC/RE will work with school leaders to review the current curriculum offer and assembly provision, to ensure that this meets the requirements of the local SACRE framework. The subject lead and SLT will also assess the suitability of the extra-curricular activities being offered in school, including the success of external visitors/venues to support the delivery of Collective Worship.

Visitors and community links

We enjoy the fresh approach and diversity which visitors can bring to our school worship, but we require them to adhere to our values. All visitors will be required to complete a visit in advance to any work being undertaken in school and must meet with a member of the senior leadership team. Where appropriate, relevant information will be kept in school outlining the details of the organisation and the information being delivered to the group. This will inform part of the evaluation of success and the school will ensure that all families are informed of visitors and external agencies in advance of their visit, so that a choice of 'opting out' can be made if required.

Supporting Documents

[DfE Collective worship in schools \(Circular number 1/94\)](#)

Guidance for local-authority-maintained schools on providing a daily act of collective worship.

[Religious education in English schools](#)

Guidance to support the provision of high-quality religious education (RE) in local-authority-maintained schools.

[Derby City SACRE syllabus 2020-2025](#)

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/teaching-learning-and-school-governance/curriculum-and-assessment/derbyshire-and-derby-city-agreed-syllabus-2020-2025.pdf>