

Collective Worship Policy

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Review Frequency : Annually

Next Review Due : January 2027

Collective Worship Policy Draft

Introduction This policy outlines the approach to collective worship at Penwortham Priory Academy. It provides guidance on how collective worship is structured, ensuring it aligns with the school's ethos while respecting individual beliefs. This policy also includes a section on the right of pupils to withdraw from collective worship.

Purpose of Collective Worship At Penwortham Priory Academy, collective worship is seen as an opportunity for pupils to gather together in a spirit of shared reflection and to explore a variety of ethical, social, and philosophical issues. The aim is not to promote a particular religious belief, but to encourage respect for a range of values and viewpoints. Collective worship may take the form of assemblies, reflection periods, or other appropriate activities, which foster a sense of community, personal growth, and respect for others.

Nature of Collective Worship The collective worship at Penwortham Priory Academy is inclusive and aims to provide students with opportunities for:

- Reflection on moral, ethical, and social issues.
- Discussion of topics related to personal development and wellbeing.
- Engagement with ideas and practices from a variety of religious, spiritual, and philosophical traditions.
- Developing a sense of belonging to the wider school community and the society at large.
- Promoting values of respect, kindness, equality, and responsibility.

While collective worship will not be of a specifically Christian or religious nature, it may include references to religious traditions, celebrations, and moral teachings that reflect the diversity of beliefs in our society. The content of collective worship will always be appropriate to the age and maturity of the students involved.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- **Timing and Frequency:** Collective worship will occur regularly, typically as part of weekly assemblies or at other appropriate times during the school day.
- **Content and Format:** The content of collective worship may include songs, readings, stories, moments of reflection, and interactive discussions. These activities will encourage pupils to consider values, identity, and moral issues, but they will be secular in nature.
- **Inclusivity:** The content of collective worship will avoid promoting any one particular religion, and efforts will be made to ensure that it is inclusive of pupils from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds.

Right to Withdraw At Penwortham Priory Academy, we respect the individual rights of pupils and parents. While we believe that collective worship plays an important role in the development of a reflective, inclusive, and respectful school community, we recognise that some pupils may prefer not to participate in such activities.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in education to exercise the right to withdraw from the daily act of collective worship. The school will ensure that pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship are provided with appropriate alternative activities that align with the school's values of respect and inclusivity, such as personal reflection.

Implementation and Monitoring

- **Staff Training:** Staff members will be provided with training on the aims and principles of collective worship, ensuring that they can lead activities in an inclusive and respectful manner.
- **Parental Communication:** Parents will be informed about the nature and purpose of collective worship when the policy is reviewed, through the school newsletter or other communications.
- **Review of Policy:** This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, and any feedback from staff, pupils, and parents will be considered to ensure it remains appropriate, inclusive, and effective.

Conclusion At Penwortham Priory Academy, we aim to provide a collective worship experience that encourages personal reflection, respect for diversity, and the exploration of moral and ethical issues. The school will ensure that this practice is in line with our secular ethos while respecting the right of parents and pupils to withdraw from collective worship if they wish.