

The Samworth Church Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our vision is to create a distinctively Christian and values driven environment that provides the best start to the 70 or more great years our students should enjoy when they leave our school. Our students should have the opportunity to live life in all its fullness and be good citizens wherever they may be.

1 Introduction

Our Christian Values* are at the heart of the Academy's ethos, vision and values and are reflected in everything we do.

*Our Christian Values:

1. **Forgiveness** – Restoring wholeness and healing through Christ's forgiveness. Peace, reconciliation, understanding, empathy, internationalism.
For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you [Matthew 6:14].

2. **Vocation** – Discovering our God given talents. Self-discovery, education, adventure.
Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called [Ephesians 4:1].

3. **Respect** – Looking for the image of Christ in everyone. Equality and respect for all humans and the world we live in, environment.
Do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets [Matthew 7:12].

4. **Positivity** – Developing a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Worship and reflection, God in charge, hope, self-sacrifice, democracy.
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18].

5. **Service** – Seeking true greatness. Looking after others, service, finding God's way for every individual, leadership.
Whoever wants to be the first must be last of all and servant of all [Mark 9:35].

To promote and encourage Christian values, we think it's important that everyone is involved in a daily act of collective worship.

2 Policy Aims

Through collective worship/thought for the day in our Academy we aim to:

- Strengthen and support the Academy community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the Academy
- Provide an experience of worship that will allow students to respond to the presence, power and peace of God

- Introduce students to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Anglican Church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce students to some well-known Christian prayers, for example, the Lord's Prayer
- Celebrate the gifts that each student brings to the Academy community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Encourage students to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- Foster a concern for others within the Academy and wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our collective responsibility for it.

As well as the compulsory collective worship/thought for the day the Academy will seek to offer further and optional Christian acts of worship on a regular basis.

3 Collective Worship Policy Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all students which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw students from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these students. As a church sponsored academy, however, worship is central to the life and work of the Academy and essential in promoting the vision, aims and values of the school, as per the funding agreement, and is regarded as a very important part of student's education.

4 Responsibilities

Governors

It is the responsibility of the governors to adopt the policy and to review every 2 years or sooner if deemed appropriate.

Foundation governor (currently Michael Longdon) to monitor the quality of collective worship.

5 Chaplain

To have oversight of the spiritual development of school worship and responsibility for ensuring that appropriate worship is taking place daily.

6 Principal

Delegated responsibility for day to day acts of worship.

7 Leaders of Collective Worship

Planning and ensuring the delivery of acts of worship in accordance with agreed guidelines. This could be within year groups, schools and tutor groups.

8 The Right to Withdraw

Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from **collective worship**. If a parent/carer asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any collective worship at the Academy the Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

The Academy remains responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from collective worship, unless the student is lawfully taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Parents/carers do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The Principal may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents/carers wishes.
- If a parent/carer will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much.

9 Summary

Collective worship is a vital part of the Academy day and a priority in developing and maintaining the Christian distinctiveness of the Academy, as well as the spiritual development and wellbeing of both staff, and student **bodies**.