



Trenance
Learning Academy



Collective Worship Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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01637 303106 or email info@kernowlearning.co.uk.

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Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship at Trenance Learning Academy are:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God;
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder;
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word;
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality;
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience;
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship;
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything;
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world;
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment;
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- Promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Teach children how to worship.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the Academy coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the values associated with the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the Academy.

While most acts of worship in our Academy are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the Academy and the wider community.



Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be either a whole-Academy assembly, year group assembly or a class assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in discussions. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher or other members of staff.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the PSHE Curriculum, as well as observe the festivals and mark the events of different faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the Academy curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Trenance Learning Academy is a successful Academy, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Format

There is no particular format for assemblies as it is essential that acts of worship have a degree of spontaneity and flexibility, but the following elements are desirable.

- The act will have a clear focus or theme;
- There will be time for reflection and stillness;
- Recorded or live music may be used to create an atmosphere or focus;
- A greeting is exchanged between the leader and participants;
- Included in worship may be stories, dramatised readings, poetry, drama, dance, artefacts or other visual aids;

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can formally request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the Academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.



The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Planning and provision of worship is informally monitored on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.