

# Hope SENTAMU LEARNING TRUST

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO THE HOPE SENTAMU LEARNING TRUST BOARD, THE CENTRAL TEAM AND ALL TRUST CHURCH SCHOOLS/ACADEMIES

| Document Management        |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Policy Approved</b>     | October 2024                                       |
| <b>Next Review Date</b>    | October 2025                                       |
| <b>Version</b>             | 1.1  |
| <b>Approving Committee</b> | Distinctiveness and Personal Development Committee |

# Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Statement of Intent                                | 3 |
| 1. Legal Framework                                 | 4 |
| 2. Content and Structure of Collective Worship     | 4 |
| 3. Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship | 5 |
| 4. Monitoring and Review of Policy                 | 5 |
| Appendix A - Localised Procedures                  | 6 |

## Policy Updates

| Date           | Page       | Policy Updates   |
|----------------|------------|--|
| November 2023  | New policy |  |
| September 2024 | 4          | 1 - Legal Framework updated with applicable guidance/policy                              |
| September 2024 | 4          | 2.1 - Collective worship definition added for clarity                                    |
| September 2024 | 5          | 3.1- Responsibility for monitoring collective worship updated following staffing changes |
| September 2024 | 5          | 3.2 - Wording amended to reflect the accurate name for the Trust Board DPD committee     |
| September 2024 | 5          | 5 - Monitoring and Review section added inline with other Trust policies                 |

## Statement of Intent

### **Our Trust Vision**

To provide environments where children and young people can thrive.  
*Life in all its fullness - a place to thrive*

### **Our Trust Values**

Respect, Teamwork, Kindness

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of each individual school, reaffirms the vision and associated values of each school and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. The schools' vision and values are underpinned and supported by the Trust vision of "life in all its fullness" John 10:10. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

## 1. Legal Framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant **legislation** and **guidance** including, but not limited to, the following:

- SIAMS Framework Church of England (September 2023)
- Diocese of York Collective Worship guidance: 'Worship Works' (September 2022)
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2010) Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70\*)  
*\*This framework requires the Headteacher/Principal and Governing Body of every school/academy to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation*
- **Right of Withdrawal**  
*Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from acts of worship and this right is clearly stated on the school/academy website*

1.2 This policy operates in conjunction with the following **Trust** policies:

- Equality Policy and Objectives
- Social Emotional and Mental Health Policy
- Religious Education (RE) Policy

## 2. Content and Structure of Collective Worship

2.1 'Collective worship' reflects an act which is special or separate from ordinary school-based activities. We understand that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, and, although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two will be considered.

2.2 Our worship is **inclusive, inspirational and invitational**. It reflects the variety of **Anglican and Methodist traditions found in the Church of England** and will recognise and follow the **Christian liturgical year**, with varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals in the UK and worldwide and, where appropriate, the Eucharist. To appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God. It includes opportunities for prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity.

2.3 Collective worship helps pupils and adults to **reflect on our school's theologically underpinned Christian vision and values**.

2.4 It offers the opportunity, without compulsion, for all pupils and adults to **grow spiritually** through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.

2.5 It is an opportunity to **celebrate and give thanks** for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

2.6 **Our worship is planned and delivered by a number of different people including, staff, Trust chaplains and our pupil Collective Worship group and consists of 4 stages:**

- Gather – we welcome the school community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle

- Engage – we share, for example a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- Respond – pupils have the opportunity for reflection through discussion, sharing thoughts, pray if they wish, sing
- Send – we share the message of the worship again and ask the school community to reflect upon the message in their daily lives. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle

### **3. Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

- 3.1** Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a regular basis. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice
- 3.2** Collective Worship monitoring and evaluation is reported to the Trustees and school Governors through **Distinctiveness and Personal Development (DPD) Committee** and **Local Governing Committee (LGC)** meetings.
- 3.3** Worship is **independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005** in consultation with the Diocese of York(SIAMS).

### **4. Monitoring and Review**

- 4.1** This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the Distinctiveness and Personal Development (DPD) committee.
- 4.2** All changes to this policy will be communicated to all Church schools and uploaded onto the respective school/academy websites.

| <b>Collective Worship Policy</b>                                  |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Localised School Based Procedures</b>                          |                       |
| <b>School Name:</b>   | St. James' CE Academy |
| <b>Headteacher/Principal:</b>                                     | Julia Strickland      |
| <b>Implementation Date:</b><br><i>Inline with policy approval</i> | October 2024          |

In conjunction with our Trust wide Collective Worship Policy, localised procedures have been established to ensure that systems and procedures reflect the school/academy setting whilst preserving each school's distinctiveness.

The localised procedures for the school/academy setting focus on the following key areas: -

- Leadership of Collective Worship
- Pattern of Collective Worship
- Visiting Speakers
- Diocese, Parish and Community Involvement

| <b>Our School's Vision</b>  |
|---|
| <p>At St James' CE Academy, we provide a high quality education within a learning environment that fosters Christian values and beliefs, and is safe, caring, purposeful and stimulating for all pupils. Each member of our school community is equally valued and respected.</p> <p><b>Together we live and learn in the light of God</b></p> <p>At St James' CE Academy, we develop a life-long love of learning and we persevere to reach our ambitions. We are at the heart of our community, and with respect and kindness, we work together to ensure everyone becomes the best that they can be in all areas of their life. We aim to nurture unique individuals, who are well-equipped to make informed choices through a wide range of diverse experiences and opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'With God all things are possible' Matthew 19:26</i></p> |
| <b>Our School's Values</b>  |
| <p><b>Kindness – Respect – Perseverance</b></p> <p>We aim for all to have the confidence to succeed and realise their full potential in all aspects of their lives by developing.</p>   |

| Leadership of Collective Worship                               |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Our Collective Worship leader is:</b>                       | Margaret Capes   |
| <b>Our foundation link governor for Collective Worship is:</b> | To be appointed at the next LGC meeting upon successful completion of Safeguarding Checks. In the interim period this position will be held by the Chair of the LGC, Pat O'Brien |

| Pattern of Collective Worship                 |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Whole-school Worship is held:</b>          | 4 times per week          |
| <b>Whole-school worship is taken by:</b>      | All staff and pupils      |
| <b>Class / Key Stage worship is held:</b>     | 1 times per week          |
| <b>Class / Key Stage worship is taken by:</b> | Class teachers and pupils |

| Visitors   |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>'Visitors' Include:</b>   | Faith Leaders |
| <p>Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school/academy and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher/Principal is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher/Principal.</p> |               |

| Diocese, Parish and wider community involvement in Collective Worship   |   |
|---|---|
| Our school/academy works with our <b>link York Diocese adviser</b> , regarding planning, delivery and monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship |   |
| <b>Our school/academy works with MAST:</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>Local parishioners involved on a regular basis with the worship programme:</b>   | Parishioners invited into school for community events linked to key festivals in the Christian Calendar |