

St Anne's Academy

Worship Policy

Reviewed and approved by	Endorsed by (if appropriate)	Date of next review
Standards Committee 6 June 2018	Governing Board 3 July 2018	Summer 2022

Academy Worship Policy

Academy Mission Statement

Faith

We keep Christian values at the centre of everything we do.

Ambition

We strive to achieve our best.

Multicultural

We strive to be accepting and supportive of all students and staff and value each and every individual.

Independence

To take responsibility for our own learning.

Lifelong Learners

Developing knowledge and skillset in preparation for life as a global citizen.

Your Future

Nurturing self-esteem to equip individuals with the skills and values for a successful future.

The Academy Mission Statement was created by Academy Student Leadership Representatives in November 2015.

This policy, and its associated procedures and protocols, is based on these key principles.

Worship Policy

Policy Principles

This policy aims to ensure that all parties associated with our Academy community recognise the place of Faith and worship in our school and the ways in which we use and promote worship.

St Anne's Church of England Academy is a school where students and staff of all Faiths or none work together, in the knowledge and love of God and humanity as part of the local community.

St Anne's is located within the parish of St Leonard's.

We seek to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development of all our students within a caring and supportive community, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their adult lives within a specifically and distinctively Christian framework.

As a Church of England Academy it is our intent and our vision to see our school as a worshipping community, where we daily create opportunities for students and staff to engage with God and consider and reflect on spiritual and, or, religious matters.

We strive to fulfil the statutory requirements as a Church of England Academy to provide a daily act of worship, and in so doing weave into the life of the Academy, in the way we work, in the way we react and in the way we treat each other – our response to the teachings of the Bible and the Church of England.

We seek to celebrate individuality. We celebrate and recognise all Faiths and none, and acknowledge the value and worth of the diversity of beliefs and practices in our Academy community, our local area, our nation and the world around us.

In our worship we seek to engage each student in their own Faith and spiritual journey, providing time for reflection, response and discussion.

We believe that Faith comes about through *belonging* to a Christian community. Through being a part of that community we believe our *beliefs* are stimulated, challenged and encouraged. As a consequence we believe we can all *behave* differently as a response to our Faith growing and developing.

The aims of collective worship in St Anne's Academy are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour.
- To help children discover their place in the world.
- To help students begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To help children understand and respect the common message of all Faiths.

- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the Academy community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion.
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the Academy through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian Faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- To provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Implementation:

1 Academy Faith Curriculum

Religious Education

Through the Religious Education curriculum all students are provided with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other principal world religions. Students are encouraged to explore issues of Faith and spirituality, including how religions worship and put their beliefs into action through the practice and observance of their religion or belief systems in their everyday life.

2 Assemblies and Form Time

Faith Assemblies

A weekly Faith Assembly takes place for each Year Group 7 to 11 led by the Principal and the Academy Chaplain. The Assembly contains an opportunity to sing a Christian hymn or song, the delivery of a Christian message, a prayer and a celebration of students' recent achievements. A weekly Sixth Form Faith Session takes place during Period 2 on Fridays also led by the Principal and the Chaplain.

Faith Form Assemblies

All Form Groups in Year Groups 7 to 9 inclusive work together to plan, produce and present a Faith Form Assembly to the rest of their Year Group. Each Form will present once per academic year with a Faith Form Assembly taking place once each half term per Year Group, [Year Groups 10 and 11 have academic Tutorials during Form Time].

Pastoral Assemblies

A weekly Pastoral Assembly takes place for Year Groups 7 to 9 inclusive led by the Year Director and the Pastoral Team. These Assemblies focus on pastoral, community and school related issues and include the Lord's Prayer.

Faith Form Times

Students in Year Groups 7 to 9 inclusive participate in twice weekly Faith Form Times. In Years 7 and 8, students undertake the Archbishop of York KS3 Award. Year 9 Form activities are centred on Jesus' commandment to 'Love Your Neighbour as Yourself.' Faith Form Times include a prayer.

Form Times and Tutorials

A prayer is included in other Form Time sessions and academic Tutorials.

Faith Theme Days

Faith Theme Days are held to offer students opportunities to explore aspects of Faith and Religious Education through the wider curriculum and beyond that which is normally afforded through the regular curriculum. Faith Theme Days can be used to facilitate development of students' expression of Faith and worship.

3 Events

Special Occasions

The Academy holds a Christmas Service attended by Y7 students and an Easter Service attended by Y8 students at the local Parish Church. The Academy also hosts an annual Remembrance Service for The Old Elizabethans' Association which is supported by Y7 students. These events involve a wide range of staff and students. Parents and carers and members of the local community are also welcome to attend these events.

The Academy welcomes the input of guest speakers to our worship activities and events to present to students in a variety of settings.

4 Singing and Faith Programme

Singing sessions take place once per week for Y7 students led by the Chaplain. Students are introduced to different Christian hymns and songs and have the opportunity to practice singing as a Year Group. Youth Alpha and other Bible based Faith programmes are also delivered.

5 Communication Lessons

Y7 students participate in Communication lessons. This is a programme designed to help students recognise and build positive character traits, learn how to develop and maintain positive relationships with their family and friends and promote good citizenship within their community at the Academy and beyond.

Acts of worship include the following elements:

- Shared experiences
- Opportunities to deepen the understanding and stretch the imagination of students
- A chance to reflect
- Opportunities to respond in some way

Acts of worship will include some or all of the following activities:

- Music
- Presentations
- Singing hymns and songs
- Readings from the Bible and other sources
- Prayers and times to reflect
- Participation of some or all students, e.g. in readings, answering questions, celebrations, etc.
- Some thoughts expressed by staff, students or visitors, for reflection

Withdrawal

Parents and carers retain their right to withdraw their child/children from school worship.

Students may be withdrawn from collective worship in any school. However, the Academy recognises that many Governing Boards of Church schools feel, where parental choice of schools exists, that parents should not exercise their right of withdrawal from school worship when they have chosen to send their child to a Church school.

The right of withdrawal, however, is an absolute one and, even if Governors have expressed a hope that parents will not withdraw their children, attendance cannot be enforced against the wishes of the parents.

It is a parents' right to withdraw their child. It is not a right accorded to the student.

The right of withdrawal does not extend to Assemblies.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship without consulting the school previously or without giving a reason.

The Academy maintains responsibility for supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship and suitable measures will be put in place in such cases.

The legal reference regarding withdrawal from collective worship can be found in the Education Act 1996 Part V, Chapter III, section 389 and, more recently, in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 Part II, Chapter VI, section 71.

Equality

The Academy endeavours to ensure that worship and collective worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the Academy Single Equality & Community Cohesion Policy. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so by informing the Principal of their intent to do so in writing. We would however aim to discourage such action given the Christian ethos and sponsorship of our Academy.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Board will review this policy every four years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.