

Ormiston Chadwick Academy

Assembly policy

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Policy Version Control

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I. Policy statement and principles

1.1 Policy aims and principles

Legislation requires each child to have a daily act of Collective Worship. This shall be mainly of broadly Christian character but will reflect the broadest views, beliefs, religion and culture of the academy's democracy, philosophy and aims of the Academy as expressed in the Academy's prospectus.

The policy will also take account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority through its SACRE.

At the academy worship is interpreted as a celebration of all that may be considered of worth. For example the environment, literature, art, and religious belief. We consider such matters to be worthwhile educationally as well as being of a broadly Christian character.

Collective Worship is a time when the whole Academy, or groups within the Academy meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests (i.e. Remembrance Day). It offers all students an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We aim for all students at the academy to feel valued and accepted within the assembly – recognising the contribution and worth of every child. This is underlined by the requirement for a collective act of worship or whole academy reflection.

We do stress that our assemblies are a learning experience. They focus around particular themes that include aspects of the whole curriculum. Religious Education as part of the Personal Development curriculum will, therefore, feature in some of our assemblies. This will focus particularly on the various religious festivals, and will be looked at in the context of education.

Where appropriate, music and songs are used within the assembly, these will be chosen carefully. Religious music and songs are included only where they form part of a Religious Education theme whereby students are helped to understand a religion through its music, should that be important in the religion.

To summarise; the content of our assemblies is derived from the following objectives

For the Academy:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Ormiston Chadwick Academy and it is our aim that it is a time when the Academy community can:

- promote the ethos of the academy
- celebrate values and worth of the academy community
- learn about the insights, beliefs and practices of people within the local community
- enhance community spirit and our responsibility to others
- share experiences about living in and responding to the world
- promote future learning and CEIAG
- demonstrate links to culture capital themes (during form time) and/or the personal development curriculum
- celebrate achievements and special times
- commemorate national days/events/themes
- develop a community spirit

For the Students:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- encourage a sensitivity to questions and answers which prompt reflection and enquiry to what lies beyond the visible
- develop the emotional responses of children
- enable students to explore their own beliefs in relation to others

- explore and share in, as appropriate, the spiritual and religious experiences of those who worship as members of a faith
- encourage and celebrate individual and collective achievements
- promote and refer to British values as appropriate
- challenge stereotypes, recognising and celebrating difference
- consider social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues
- develop their own spirituality
- prepare students for future learning and open them to future career opportunities
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

An element of time may be added within each assembly for quiet reflection on the content or message.

1.2 The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Ormiston Chadwick Academy, Collective Worship will at times feature in aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of students by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with Academy policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide students with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Audits are completed across the whole school during planning phases to monitor what subjects are addressing SMSC and within which topics. This enables an overview and informs future planning.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship as an Assembly are scheduled within year groups and are on a weekly carousel. There is a specific schedule for staff to follow and contribute to the delivery. Assemblies will take place in the main Academy Hall. Heads of Year will occasionally call additional assemblies when necessary, and these will be held in the Academy gymnasium.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Further Acts of worship will also take place during morning form time. One day a week is directed to developing an understanding of culture capital, during which times will be given to reflect, raise opinions and discuss specific events, themes, subjects.

Leadership

The majority of the Academy staff, particularly middle and senior leaders alongside appropriately selected visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the Academy year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all students.

A yearly schedule for Assemblies, lists the themes, special occasions and events. However, this is flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues that require urgent attention. With thorough planning by the staff delivering the Assemblies, it will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Ormiston Chadwick Academy. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the students' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the students who belong to these Faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the students.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Should you be concerned about your child participating in the kind of assemblies we have outlined we would be pleased to discuss the matter with you, where your rights to withdraw your child would be considered. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the academy staff.

This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by OAT / the academy and is written in line with current legislation and guidance.

1.3 Complaints

All complaints are dealt with under the **OAT Complaints Policy**.

Complaints should be made in writing and will follow the OAT complaint procedures and set timescales. The handling of complaints may be delegated to an appropriate person.

The outcome of the complaint will be communicated in writing.

1.4 Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and / or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event
- In the event that the policy is determined not to be effective

If there are urgent concerns these should be raised with the Principal in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.