



## Collective Worship Policy

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## Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Legal Context	3
3. Aims of Collective Worship	3
4. Practice and Organisation	3
5. Inclusivity and Diversity	4
6. Right to Withdraw	4
7. Roles and Responsibilities	4
8. Monitoring and Evaluation	5
9. Policy Dissemination	5
10. Conclusion	5

## 1. Introduction

At Forest Academy, part of the Inspire Partnership, we recognise that Collective Worship is a key opportunity to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and to foster a shared sense of community. Our approach is inclusive, reflective and rooted in the school's core values of Equity, Community, Leadership, Nurture, and Excellence.

We welcome and value the diversity of our school community and believe Collective Worship should be a safe, thoughtful and unifying experience for all, regardless of faith, belief or background.

## 2. Legal Context

This policy complies with the legal requirements set out in:

- The Education Act 1996
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988

These require all maintained schools to provide a daily act of collective worship, which must be "*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*", unless an exemption has been granted. As an academy, Forest Academy fulfils this requirement through its funding agreement.

## 3. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Forest Academy seeks to:

- Provide time for reflection, stillness, and thoughtfulness
- Promote empathy, compassion and appreciation for others
- Encourage pupils to consider ethical issues and moral values
- Celebrate achievements, milestones, and diverse cultures
- Strengthen the school's sense of identity and belonging
- Foster curiosity and respect towards the beliefs and practices of others
- Support pupils' wellbeing and personal growth

## 4. Practice and Organisation

Collective Worship takes a range of inclusive forms throughout the week, including:

- Whole-school, phase or class assemblies led by staff or visitors
- Class-based discussions or reflective moments
- Celebration assemblies

- Curriculum-linked events and seasonal observances

Themes may be inspired by:

- Our school values and PSHE curriculum
- Significant religious and cultural events (e.g. Diwali, Eid, Ramadan, Christmas, Remembrance)
- Inspirational people, global issues, and current affairs
- Pupil-led initiatives, including those from the Junior Leadership Team

Collective Worship is not confined to any one style. Staff may incorporate:

- Stories (religious, moral, inspirational)
- Music and poetry
- Silence or guided reflection
- Quotes, artefacts or visual prompts
- Opportunities for pupil voice

## **5. Inclusivity and Diversity**

We are a diverse community, and our approach to Collective Worship reflects this:

- Worship is inclusive and respectful of different faiths and world views
- Christian traditions are acknowledged, while also valuing the perspectives of other major world religions and non-religious beliefs such as Humanism
- Pupils are not expected to take part in religious worship, but are encouraged to engage with themes of respect, values, identity, and belonging

## **6. Right to Withdraw**

Parents/carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from Collective Worship, in whole or in part, under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

If you wish to exercise this right, please contact the Headteacher in writing. Alternative arrangements will be made for pupils where appropriate.

We encourage open dialogue to ensure all families feel confident and included in our school's values-led approach.

## 7. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher: Ensures compliance with statutory duties and overall quality of provision
- SLT and RE Lead: Coordinate themes and delivery of Collective Worship
- Class Teachers: Facilitate reflection time where appropriate
- Pupils: Encouraged to contribute through planning, presenting, and engaging in reflective dialogue

## 8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the quality, consistency and inclusivity of Collective Worship through:

- Regular observations and feedback
- Pupil voice
- Termly reviews and calendar planning

## 9. Policy Dissemination

This policy is available on the school website and referenced in the school prospectus and staff handbook. Parents are welcome to request a copy from the school office.

## 10. Conclusion

At Forest Academy, Collective Worship supports the wider curriculum by building character, promoting values, and nurturing community spirit. It is an integral part of school life, offering all pupils regular opportunities to reflect, connect, and grow.