

UNIVERSITY ACADEMY  
HOLBEACH



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

# The University Academy Holbeach

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## **Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy**

Approved by University Academy: October 2015  
Holbeach Governing Body

To be reviewed every two years

Review Date: October 2017

The Education Act states that “all members of a school should have collective worship every day”. Collective worship is defined as.....spiritual, of a broad Christian belief, reflecting a worshipping dimension.... An assembly for information purposes cannot be given instead of collective worship. Clearly we have a legal obligation to ensure that each pupil attends a collective act of worship each day but they cannot all be gathered together in one place due to the limitation of the building. The following procedures will therefore be adopted:

Year, House Assemblies or Key Stage Assemblies will be held during a designated Assembly period. These Assemblies will be the responsibility of a member of SMT, the Learning or Assistant Learning Co-ordinator or Head of House. Staff members are expected to escort their tutor groups to the assembly, ensure that their group is seated in the correct place and behave appropriately. Staff should stand near their tutor group. When the assembly is over staff should supervise their group to leave in an orderly fashion.

### **Themes for the Month**

Collective worship will follow themes for the month.

Themes for the month will:

- Communicate local, national and international themes and events
- Be recorded by pupils in their planners each week
- Be displayed on the Academy screens
- Allow for the Academy to promote cultural diversity and community cohesion
- Support, year, key stage and house assemblies

At other times daily collective worship will be undertaken in the morning registration by the form tutor. As far as is possible the tutor should take the ‘Thought of the month’ and discuss it with the group or give some guidance to the group on the theme or ask pupils to think about it silently for a few minutes, whichever is the most appropriate. A booklet will be issued each month, giving some suggestions or readings that may be used. This should not preclude form tutors responding to items of news, current affairs or other issues, which may, on occasions, not relate to the week’s theme.

Lesley Smillie has the responsibility for Assemblies within the school. If staff members require any further ideas or resources they should see her. Any suggestions for themes and thoughts are always appreciated. The Academy’s policy is set out below:

# UNIVERSITY ACADEMY HOLBEACH POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

## Introduction

The 1988 Education Reform Act as amended by the Education Act 1993 states that worship should be “part of a balanced and broadly based curriculum which

- Promotes the spiritual, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society
- Prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.”

This Academy policy for collective worship:

- Outlines the legal requirements
- Defines worship in the educational environment of The University Academy Holbeach
- Summarises the ethos of the Academy
- Outlines the pupil needs and entitlement
- Describes the resources available for collective worship
- Explains arrangements for withdrawal from collective worship.

The responsibility for delivering this policy rests with those staff members who are involved in leading collective worship throughout the Academy, as described in this policy.

## 1 Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Act, as subsequently amended by the 1993 Act requires that all pupils in attendance at the Academy, subject to the parental right of withdrawal, should take part in an act of collective worship on each school day. The timing and organisation of collective worship can be flexible to meet the needs of the Academy. The Act states that most acts of collective worship in any one term should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief but should not be distinctive of any particular denomination. The nature of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils, their ages and aptitudes.

## 2 Worship in the educational environment of University Academy Holbeach

The legislation referred to above does not define worship, but worship in schools is necessarily of a different character from worship experienced with a faith community. Whilst evangelism is inappropriate, collective worship in the Academy should in some sense reflect something special or distinct from ordinary Academy activities. Some concepts and attitudes which are considered appropriate and reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief are as follows

Adoration  
Atonement  
Compassion

Affirmation  
Awareness/knowledge communion  
Concern

Aspiration  
Consideration

Conviction	Co-operation	Creation
Corporate responsibility	Death and resurrection empowerment	
Faith	Fellowship	Forgiveness
Honesty	Humility	Incarnation
Integrity	Love	Mystery
Perseverance	Pity	Reconciliation
Remembrance	Respect	Reverence
Self sacrifice	Self reliance	Sharing
Submission	Self testing	Tolerance
Trust	Ultimate purpose	Values

These are complex ideas, which can be explored at different levels taking account of family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils.

Within the Academy, the requirements of current legislation on collective worship are addressed by:

- A timetabled registration period across the whole Academy. All pupils, unless withdrawn by parental consent, attend a House, Year or Key Stage act of collective worship during this period. This may be led by a member of the SMT, the Learning Co-ordinator or Head of House and normally takes place in one of the halls in the Academy. Outside speakers and agencies may occasionally be involved.
- Collective worship during form time takes place in the tutor room during the registration period. Collective worship on these days takes the form of “Thought of the Week”. Although usually led by the form tutor, pupils are encouraged to contribute, therefore reinforcing the corporate nature of the act of worship. During exam periods it may be necessary to have more tutor based activities.

### **3 Collective worship and the ethos of the Academy**

Participation in the daily act of collective worship should contribute positively to individual pupil development and to the ethos of the Academy. Within this ethos, acts of collective worship should

- Provide the opportunity to consider spiritual, moral, cultural and ethical concepts and to explore their own response and beliefs
- Encourage pupils to value themselves as individuals and to promote respect, tolerance and understanding of others and their beliefs
- Contribute to the education of all present and be an intentional learning experience
- Convey a sense of occasion, an opportunity to learn behaviour in large groups and promote a sense of group identity.

#### **4 Pupil needs and entitlement**

Collective worship within the Academy takes full cognisance of the family backgrounds of pupils, their ages, abilities and aptitudes. Each week's acts of collective worship are devoted to the consideration and exploration of a particular theme. Worship as practised within a community of faith is outside the experience of the majority of pupils at The University Academy Holbeach, so formal prayer and the singing of hymns are not part of the normal expression of collective worship. However, a short period of reflection may be incorporated into acts of collective worship to provide an opportunity for all present to engage in private prayer and further thought.

#### **5 Resources for collective worship**

An ideas leaflet for collective worship is produced by Lesley Smillie. This leaflet is produced each month, so that all staff responsible for the delivery of collective worship have adequate preparation time. Outside speakers and agencies are given a specific brief regarding the content of their contribution. The material produced for collective worship may be used in its entirety or may be supplemented or replaced at the discretion of the Learning Co-ordinator or Head of House. However, the theme for the month should generally be preserved.

The 'Theme of the month' will be put on the monitors around the Academy and written in planners so that pupils may be constantly reminded of the focus and hopefully be able to contribute to worship in Tutor groups. Contributions from pupils should be actively encouraged in the classroom.

#### **6 Withdrawal from collective worship**

Parents' rights to withdraw their child from collective worship as established under the 1944 Education Act, are unaffected by the new legislation. Withdrawal of pupils from collective worship can be arranged on receipt of a written request from a parent or guardian. If the parent and Academy agree, the pupil may be present during the collective worship but not take part in it. This ensures that the pupil is present for Academy assembly activities, which may follow the collective worship. Pupils who are withdrawn should stand quietly outside a room or Assembly area whilst worship is taking place.