

Policy prepared by	Ormiston SWB Academy
Responsible committee	LGB
Date approved by committee	
Date ratified by LGB (if required)	

Statement of intent

All students at Ormiston SWB Academy are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At Ormiston SWB Academy, the daily act of collective worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"¹, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All students are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in a range of ways, either through weekly year group assemblies or through daily Form Time, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

It is important to be aware that, as stated in the Education Act (1996) "Not every act of collective worship in the school required by section 385 need comply with subsection 2 (ie the collective worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character) provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply with that subsection."

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of governors	Date: _____

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- 1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

2. Policy aims

- 2.1. Collective worship at Ormiston SWB Academy aims to:
 - Enable students to consider, over time, spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
 - Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the activity offered.

¹ DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', pg.21, para.60

- Provide students with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship activities.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness and reflection.
- Help students to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

3. Definition of collective worship

- 3.1. For the purpose of this policy, **“collective worship”** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the Academy's ethos.
- 3.2. To **“take part”** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from students even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the activity on a particular occasion.

4. Organisation and planning

- 4.1. The Principal is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Senior Leadership Team.
- 4.2. The Collective Worship activity will be held for either 15 minutes during daily form time (08:45-09:00) or during the half hour weekly assembly, according to the academy rota.
- 4.3. Each form time/assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics set by the academy and will centre around the academy values of Aspire, Respect, Engage in order to Achieve and British Values.
- 4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to students of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.5. The Vice-Principal (Student Safety and Engagement) will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by students to their lives inside and outside of school.
- 4.6. The academy may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.
- 4.7. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the academy policy during their visit and will be appropriately vetted prior to the event.

5. Weekly collective worship programme

- 5.1. The academy aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to students. The current schedule is outlined in the table below, all of which are broadly focused on or underpinned by Christian values:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	All Form Groups participate in Mindset Monday to focus on attitudes and reflect on how these are prevalent in their own learning and lives.
Tuesday	All Form Groups participate in Tutor Tuesday to focus on the own preparedness for participation in the life of the academy and in their own learning.
Wednesday	All Form Groups participate in World Wide Wednesday, a programme of reflection and debate regarding current affairs and topics relevant to students' understanding of our values.
Thursday	All Form Groups participate in Thinking Thursday to further develop and challenge their understanding of the world around them within a Christian values ethos.
Friday	A whole-school assembly undertaken in Year Groups is delivered by the either the Principal, Senior Directors or Head's of Year according to a planned programme.

5.2. Once every term, students will meet in their House Groups to reflect on their achievements during the term in line with the academy and British Values. These assemblies are led by House Leaders.

6. Implementation

6.1. The academy aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to students' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging students to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage students' interest.
- Involving students in different experiences of worship, e.g. silent or shared reflection

7. Right to withdraw

7.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Principal following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the student taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

7.3. Withdrawal of a student usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the Principal and parent/carer, the student may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.4. The Principal will arrange alternative provision for any student who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Students with special educational needs and disabilities

- 8.1. The academy will take into account students of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.
- 8.2. The academy will arrange for learning mentors to assist students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

9. Monitoring and review

- 9.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Principal in agreement with the Local Governing Body.
- 9.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.
- 9.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 9.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2019.