



CASTLEMAN ACADEMY TRUST

POLICY :

Collective Worship

Author: Chief Executive Officer
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Collective Worship Policy

Our policies refer to Senior Leaders. This can mean Executive Head Teacher, Head Teacher or Head of School.

The Collective Worship Policy at Castleman Academy Schools pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. The Collective Worship Policy of the school is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

In line with 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy for Castleman Academy Trust Schools is consistent with the philosophy, aims and values of the Trust. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of those in the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

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

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Castleman Academy Trust Schools and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

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

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Castleman Academy Trust schools, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class-work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school 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 pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Senior Leaders are responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised in each school to reflect the timetable and day to day running that is specific to that school.

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

The arrangements for Collective Worship for each Trust School can be found on their individual websites.

Leadership

Members of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school 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 pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets, these 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. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils 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 pupils.

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)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher/Head of School. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Arrangements for Collective Worship in CAT Schools vary due to timetable and accommodation. Please refer to individual schools for details regarding the organization and delivery of Collective Worship, available on the individual school website.

Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been reviewed with the equality impact considerations as laid down in the trust's Equality Policy.