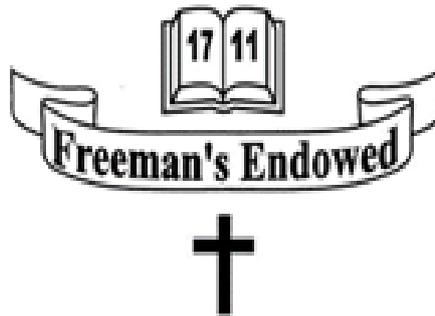


# FREEMAN'S ENDOWED C. E. JUNIOR ACADEMY



“A school where everyone aspires to be their best!”

## Collective Worship Policy

FINAL January 2020
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Date for Next Revision – September 2022
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## Collective Worship Policy

***“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”***

### Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that Collective Worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, Collective Worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a special time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

### Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of the aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Freeman’s, see *Appendix 1*.

### Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of Collective Worship.

For academy specific details see *Appendix 1*.

## **Content**

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values each academy has chosen.

These are, for example: Thankfulness, Respect, Courage, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Trust, Compassion, Generosity, Hope, Justice, Truth and Acceptance. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details see *Appendix 1*.

## **Resources**

For details of resources individual academies use see *Appendix 1*.

## **Evaluation, Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend Collective Worship, and we discuss this with parents/carers at the time of admission. However, any parent/carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents/carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

## **Appendix 1**

**Name of Academy: Freeman's Endowed C. E. Junior Academy**

### **Academy specific details**

**"A school where everyone aspires to be their best!"**

As a Christian school in the heart of Wellingborough, Freeman's Endowed C.E. Junior Academy is committed to helping our young people to strengthen their own faith and beliefs while developing and showing respect, tolerance and understanding for different faiths and cultures in the school and wider community.

Our acts of worship are in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England, satisfying the Will of John Freeman in 1711 that the children of this school should be 'educated in the Protestant religion, according to the doctrines of the Church of England'.

Our vision is based on our core Christian values of **FORGIVENESS, ASPIRATIONS, HONESTY, RESILIENCE, RESPECT** and **FAITH**.

There are many examples of our values in the Bible, such as the one below, and they are deeply embedded within the Christian ethos of the school and within our daily acts of Collective Worship.

#### **Matthew 18:21-22**

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"*

*Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*

### **Aims for Collective Worship**

***"inclusive, invitational, inspiring"***

Collective Worship lies at the heart of our life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in both a contemporary and traditional Christian style, consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

In addition to the aims already stated, Collective Worship at Freeman's Academy aims to;

- Create an atmosphere and opportunity for reflection, repose and active participation.
- Develop an understanding of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.
- Enable the experience of prayer.
- Promote the values of the Bible and of Christian tradition.
- Prepare children for daily experiences, opportunities and responsibilities with the belief that God is involved in every area of life.

## **Practicalities of Organisation**

Our daily act of Collective Worship is held each afternoon. An agreed format is followed, an example of which can be seen in Appendix 2.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. Pupils know that worship is a special thinking time for calm reflection and are expected to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that act as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

Planning our daily act of worship is overseen by the Collective Worship Lead who;

- Organises a Worship Rota every half-term, which includes all senior leaders and teachers in playing a positive and contributory role in worship planning, preparation and delivery.
- Decides on themes for the daily act of worship in consultation with pupils, staff and other contributors.
- Develops opportunities for pupils to participate in leading elements of worship.
- Liaises with regular visitors, e.g. CAT and CSALT teams.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of worship with input from pupils and staff.
- Feeds back to SLT and staff.
- Liaises with the designated Governor regarding Collective Worship.

Our acts of worship will take various forms including;

- whole school worship led by the Headteacher or other staff members.
- whole school celebration/awards led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- whole school worship led by a range of invited Christian visitors.
- whole school worship led by children.
- whole school gatherings for singing practices to learn the music, words and meanings of songs, with times for reflection and prayer.
- whole school celebrations of Christian Festivals and special events, held at St Barnabas Church, where friends and family are invited to attend, strengthening links between the academy, the Church and the community.

We welcome governors' attendance at Collective Worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes.

## Content

A record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship, guided by staff and by our Year 6 Worship Leaders. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. Worship plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Our Acts of Worship contain elements of the following:

- Consideration of, and response to, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- Knowledge and appreciation of the Bible.
- Praise and prayer to God.
- Exploration of the symbolism within the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition.
- Respect for people of all faiths, races and cultures as well as for those of no faith.
- Promotion of British Values.
- Appreciation of music and participation in hymns and songs.
- Responses to things of worth.
- Invitations to participate and observe.
- Recognition of, and response to, the spiritual dimension of human experience.
- Ritual and ceremony, stillness and reflection.

## Resources

Appropriate materials, resources, stories, prayers, poems and artefacts are chosen for the age, background and experience of the children.

Bibles such as The Lion Bible for Children are used as a regular source of Bible material to share with pupils.

The worship unit is decorated with coloured cloths to match the colours of the Church Year and Bibles and a candle are placed on the unit.

Song words and presentations are kept electronically on the staff drive.

Useful websites include:

[www.worshipworkshop.co.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.co.uk)

[www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk)

[www.biblebasedassemblies.com](http://www.biblebasedassemblies.com)

[www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)

## **Appendix 2**

*Example of the format of a daily act of Collective Worship for Freeman's Academy:*

Music played as children quietly enter worship

Welcome

Introduction to theme

Presentation on theme

Time of reflection

Prayer

Song

Music played as children quietly leave worship