



Staffordshire University Academy Trust		St. Edward's Academy Cheddleton Collective Policy				
Approved by:	SEAC LAC	Issue Date:	Summer 2021	Review Date:	Summer 2022	
Policy Owner:	Mrs S Huckfield					
Audience:	LAC	x	Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Public	x
	Staff	x	Parents	x	Pupils	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mission Statement

The daily act of collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision and values are expressed. As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of our academy, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through our Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St Edward's Church Cheddleton. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Our school vision and values permeate throughout all our daily acts of worship.

Our School Vision:

We will teach **wisdom**, model and expect **respect** for all. We will nurture **compassion, responsibility, courage** and **perseverance**, equipping our children for life in all its fullness as **honest** adults in our diverse and ever-changing world. We aspire to work collaboratively with our academy, Multi- Academy Trust, local, national and global communities as by...

Learning and Caring Together '...they will flourish in the courts of our God' (Psalm 92:13)

This vision is supported by our commitment to 'Growing faith' whereby we actively seek opportunities to link our school, the church and the community.

Our children visualise the words 'learning' and 'caring' as towers with the 'g' at the bottom representing 'God' as our foundation.

Our School Christian Values

Our seven school Christian values are Wisdom, Respect, Courage, Compassion, Perseverance, Honesty and Responsibility. Each value is assigned to a class with each class being the ambassadors for that value, demonstrating their value in action. Our vision and values are theologically grounded with clear links to Christian narrative through Bible quotes and stories. An 'Influential Christian' is also linked to each class value.

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of our academy which requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education Act that states,

*'...all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship'*

and that this should be,

*...'**mainly of a broadly Christian character**'*

Other Faiths

Although our worship is distinctively Christian and reflective of our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

The right of withdrawal

At St Edward's Academy Cheddleton, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents' beliefs and values.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand focuses on **the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision**. Here at St Edward's CE Academy Cheddleton, this inspection will evaluate our collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship

Our aims and organisation of worship

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences. Our current organisation of worship is as follows:

Monday - Whole school worship led by Mrs Huckfield (Worship lead)

Tuesday - Visitor led worship for the whole school

Wednesday - Class worship

Thursday - Whole school 'Worship in Song'

This follows the same format as our other acts of collective worship to ensure that it is more than simply a 'hymn practice'.

Friday - Celebration assembly led by the Principal

This is a time where we gather to celebrate the children's achievements both in and outside of school. Teachers will identify children who have achieved academically and personally. We also celebrate attendance with an award for the class with the highest attendance percentage that week. This is still regarded as an act of worship through singing our school blessing at the beginning and ending with a prayer.

Each year group is timetabled to lead worship for our school church services held at St Edward's Church for Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and our Year 4 Leavers. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. Our Year 4 spiritual ambassadors are responsible for meeting and greeting the congregation at the church and handing out our orders of service.

Our collective worship themes are firmly rooted in biblical narrative. A bible quote is introduced at the beginning of each half termly worship theme and is displayed and referenced throughout.

Our worship format includes a Trinitarian opening, the lighting of a candle, an Anglican greeting and sending out. Songs/hymns/reflective music are used, along with the reciting of our school creed and child led prayers.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used, including those written and led by the children.

A school prayer which incorporates each of our seven school Christian values is said by each class at the beginning of each school day.

Each classroom has a prayer and reflection area which also serve as working learning walls for the current worship themes and RE units of work. Children add prayers and prayer ideas to the prayer boxes which are shared during worship/reflection time.

Prayer areas can be found inside and outside of our school environment which encourage a time of stillness and reflection.

Windows, Mirrors and Doors

We adopt the windows, mirrors and doors approach to promote spiritual development which is evidenced within our worship planning. We have a prayer/reflection area in school that directly links to this approach.

Windows	Windows are for looking out onto the world and becoming aware of its wonders, both the 'wows' and the 'ows'; things that are 'awe-full' and make us wonder and be grateful, and things that are 'aweful' and make us wonder and ask questions. Children learn about life in all its fullness.
Mirrors	Mirrors are for looking into and reflecting, to see things more clearly, to think about and ask important questions learning from our own and each other's responses.
Doors	Children have opportunities to respond to their learning about (windows) and learning from (mirrors). Doors open and allow us to move on. How can we take what we have learned out into the world? How can we show our learning and values in action?

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Principal and Chair of Governors (LAC). However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to the school's Worship Lead who is a practicing Christian with a strong Christian faith. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Our **Christian Council** is also involved in the management of worship. The members of our Christian Council are representatives from different areas of our community (pupils, staff, clergy and members of St Edward's Church Cheddleton and the Methodist Circuit, members of the local community and parents). The Christian Council meets on a half termly basis and is responsible for spiritual change within our school and local community.

The aims of the Christian Council are:

To develop our Christian distinctiveness to enable us to flourish as a church school by...

- Ensuring that our school's Christian vision and values are reflected within the life of the school
- Providing opportunities for children, staff, LAC members and members of the community to have an active role in the planning and delivery of worship
- Planning, monitoring and evaluating collective worship in school
- Influencing how class worship is delivered to ensure that it provides opportunities to gather, engage and respond
- Creating and developing areas for outdoor worship and reflection in and around the school
- Keeping updated with the current SIAMS framework