

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Education Trust



St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

Policy type:	School
Policy:	Collective Worship Policy
Ratified by MAT Directors:	December 2019
Head Teacher signature:	<i>M. Shepherd.</i>
Chair of Directors signature:	<i>Shepherd.</i>
Review Date:	December 2020
Ownership:	M.Shepherd (Head Teacher)

Introduction

This policy has been developed to take into consideration our Mercy ethos and local and national policy and guidance.

As a Catholic Voluntary Aided Academy the Governors of St Anthony's take account of the Diocesan Trust Deed which states the acts of worship shall be consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. The Foundation Governors have particular responsibility for seeing that the Catholic character of the Academy is reflected in Collective Acts of Worship and are in accordance with the Trust Deed.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and cannot be subsumed under any part of the curriculum. It is distinctive and meets legal requirements.

Worship in this Academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of Academy life, central to the Catholic tradition and the Mercy tradition upon which the Academy is founded.

The Mercy ethos

Education which is

- Christ centered
- Faith enlightened
- Builds communities
- Shows concern for the poor particularly women and girls
- Pursues excellence

Definitions

Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Worship is at the heart of St Anthony's Academy.

Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others may form part of an act of worship.

All **liturgies** involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.

An **assembly** is any experience of gathering/assembling in the Academy inspired by Jesus words, where two or three gather. It may include an act of worship but the difference between worship and assembly is always made clear.

Character of Collective Worship

In keeping the ethos of our Academy, our Collective Worship is "wholly of a broadly Christian character." Without being rigid or unfeeling towards those from different faiths amongst us, we chiefly pray the Christian prayers, sing the Christian hymns and take our readings from the

Holy Bible. Our aim is for our Collective Worship to be prayerful and relevant and as essentially a part of the day as any other Academy activity. It takes various forms (e.g. structured services, directed reflection (from our own resources or from visiting speakers) plays/assemblies, songs of praise etc.) and student participation and preparation is greatly encouraged and implemented. The liturgical year gives our Collective Worship its framework while the needs and events of our worlds of home, Academy, town and society, make up its content.

Aim of Collective Worship Policy

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered

Principles of Collective Worship Policy

1. Every effort will be made to give pupils positive experiences, based on sound educational, pastoral and liturgical principles.
2. Acts of Worship will prepare pupils for the liturgical life of the Church
3. Acts of Worship will take into account, as far as possible, the age, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils.
4. Eucharistic celebrations will highlight a special occasion.
5. Acts of Worship will usually follow the basic structure of Christian Worship.

Academy vision and ethos

As a Mercy Academy our education vision and ethos is:

- **Christ centred**

The Mercy Academy recognizes the dignity of the human person and the command of Christ to love and care for each other. We aim to build up self-esteem among individuals and create a community marked by, caring and belonging that leads to personalized learning.

- **Faith enlightened**

In the Mercy Academy, faith, culture and life are in dialogue and harmony. The Catholic faith is at the heart of the Academy life and is integral to its liturgies, rituals, symbolism and prayer spaces.

- **Shows concern for the poor especially women and girls**

The Mercy Academy sets as its clear aim to work towards eradicating suffering and its causes. It seeks to create compassion as the driving force in the search for justice for those at the margins of the community. Students should be educated to question the status quo and to be active for social change and the promotion of equal opportunities.

- **Builds communities**

The Mercy Academy shows social responsibility for the world we inhabit. It should work towards creating a world where everyone can live lives of dignity and decency with respect for life. The Academy is a community where parents, staff and students share a common vision as a community of warmth and love.

- **Pursues excellence**

The Mercy Academy enables every student to achieve her potential. It is committed to high quality teaching and learning and to building a community of reflective learners working to the highest standards. Respect is at the heart of the Academy community. There is a commitment to inventiveness and change.

Organisation and Management of Collective Worship

The overall responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher in consultation with the governors. The following structure and system has been approved.

- 8.30am - The Academy Chaplains lead the staff in prayer at the beginning of the Headteacher's briefing to staff each morning.
- 11.00am – The Pastoral Leaders at frequent intervals, assemble the year group in a designated area for prayer. The structure of the assembly is left to the expertise of each Year Leader based around themes connected to the Church's Liturgical Year. Pupils are encouraged to take part in assemblies/readings.
- Mass is celebrated every Friday at 8.30 am. and on Holy Days of Obligation. The priests from our parishes offer Mass in turn and each form has an opportunity to prepare Mass. Anyone who wishes to serve, read, help with the music or prepare the Chapel for Mass is very welcome.
- Each year we have Leavers' Masses for years 11 and 13.
- Each year the whole Academy (separately) meets together for Collective Worship for such important event as the Academy Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Advent Assemblies, Lenten Assemblies and Staff Leavers' Mass. These events are coordinated by the Academy Chaplains in conjunction with Pastoral Deputy Head Teacher, Year Leaders and Subject Leaders of Music and RE.
- A powerpoint of collective worship resources is sent out weekly by Chaplains to all Staff and form tutors to stimulate prayer and reflection during form time.
- Collective worship powerpoint of resources is also emailed weekly to Primary school within the Partnership.
- All forms are timetables for prayer time within the Chapel.

Policy monitoring and review

- The monitoring of Collective Worship forms part of the Academy improvement plan
- The Governing body include the monitoring of Collective Worship on their agenda
- Issues raised in the monitoring process will be used to further develop Collective Worship
- Monitoring of Collective Worship includes observations of collective acts of worship, discussions with those who lead worship, discussions with those who experience worship (pupils, parents, governors and other members of the Academy community).
- Monitoring will check on resources, visual aids, use of technology etc.
- Staff development and in-service training will be recorded
- From time to time an Academy audit for collective worship will be conducted to assist in monitoring Collective Worship
- When the monitoring of Collective Worship has been completed it leads to an evaluation of the current position and plans for the further development of Collective Worship within the Academy.