



Collective Worship Policy

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the approach to Collective Worship at Ark Acton Academy

Date of last review:	September 2014	Author:	Education Directors
Date of next review:	September 2019	Owner:	Education Directors
Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	Management Team
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POSITIONING WITHIN ARK OPERATIONAL MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates <input type="checkbox"/> Our People	Rituals and Routines

1. Introduction

Ark Acton Academy believes that the Religious Education (RE) collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of academy life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the academy day for the space it gives pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

The RE curriculum is guided by the statutory requirement that RE is taught to all pupils at the Academy (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The content of the curriculum is created in accordance with the agreed syllabus of Ealing Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). The curriculum will involve moral and ethical development within the context of developing an individual's understanding of religion and religiosity.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

Our Academy intake reflects the multicultural backgrounds of families in the area. We recognise that in asking our pupils to worship, we have to consider the background that our pupils come from and it is therefore not the practice of this Academy to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

2. Aims

The Ealing SACRE states that within the teaching of RE it "should be emphasised that religious education is not about the transmission of any particular faith. It is not a substitute for the faith nurture of the home and faith community. It is about giving pupils opportunity to learn about the importance of the religious dimension of life, how it differs, and how for many millions of people, both in this country and throughout the world, religious faith is the motivating factor for their lives and behaviour." Through our RE curriculum and collective worship programme we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils to:

- a) Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the Academy and wider community.
- b) Grow their understanding of the feelings and beliefs of the other people in everyday situations.
- c) Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- d) Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole academy.
- e) Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- f) Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

3. Guiding Principles

Our guiding principles for Collective Worship are as follows:

- At Ark Acton Academy we are proud of our inclusive community; we welcome Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and those of other faiths and none. Ark Acton Academy will set incredibly high expectations for its students and will focus on good discipline founded on strong moral and religious values.

- At Ark Acton Academy we want all pupils to feel safe, secure and valued regardless of their faith or religious choice. We believe that all are equal and should be treated as such. We wish to include aspects of all faith in our worship in order to build a stronger sense of community and belonging.
- The values should include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All policies and guidelines will reflect these values and our day to day living in the academy will model these values in practice.

4. Implementation

Religious education is taught in a range of different ways at Ark Acton Academy which will include the following:

- Tutor time activities
- Assemblies
- Discrete RE lessons
- Off timetable days

5. RE Curriculum

RE at Ark Acton Academy will provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of morality (right and wrong) and of what it means to be human. Through RE, pupils will develop the knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions and other world views that offer answers to questions such as these.

RE will seek to develop each child by offering opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings and practices and forms of expression as well as the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures. The curriculum will be delivered in accordance to all academy guidelines on Teaching and Learning and the expectation is that lessons will be Outstanding.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities for Collective Worship at the Academy are as follows:

- Principal - The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body
- Teaching staff - All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Principal.
- Parents/carers - Parents/carers of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from RE or collective worship. If a parent/carer asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the Academy. The Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal.
- All pupils - Pupils will all be encouraged to reflect upon the stimulus material provided in assemblies and lessons.
- Governing body – some schools appoint a governor with specific responsibility for strategic oversight of the school ethos and delivery of religious education

7. Monitoring and Review

Delivery of Collective Worship and Religious Education will be monitored and reviewed

through lesson observations, pupil feedback and actions outlined in school plans.