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# WORSHIP POLICY

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REVIEWED: SUMMER 2022

Policy approved by Shadow Governing Committee  
on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Signed by the Chair:

**Dr Sean Curley**

**NEXT REVIEW SUMMER 2025**

THE BRIAN CLARKE CE ACADEMY

C/O THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL, EGERTON STREET, OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE, OL1 3SQ

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## 1. Policy Statement

The Brian Clarke Academy is a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian ethos that welcomes young people of all faiths and none. A multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-talented school community. We want all our students to be everything they can be and everything they are meant to be – to be able to live life in all its' fullness (John 10:10).

Assembly, worship, and reflection are an important part of the school day. It brings us together as a community to reflect on what is important and how we treat one another as members of a shared moral community where people are all valued as individuals. Collective worship and assemblies are therefore a key vehicle for pastoral care, as much as spirituality, reinforcing the messages which are central to young peoples' development as kind and respectful people who can care for themselves and one another, and whose lives are enriched by a spiritual dimension.

## 2. Aims of collective worship

1. Worship embraces all members of the Brian Clarke community.
2. Worship provides the opportunity for staff and students to explore what it means to have faith in themselves, the world around them and faith in God.
3. Worship explores spiritual, moral and global issues central to student's lives.
4. Worship seeks to develop a sense of community within the school and foster being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
5. Worship aligns with the school's ethos, core, and pastoral curriculum to generate an understanding that there is so much more that unites us than divides us.
6. Worship emphasises the importance of practising forgiveness and reconciliation.
7. Worship develops knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, particularly the significance of Jesus and God's revelation through the Bible.
8. Worship celebrates other faith traditions and provides an opportunity to celebrate shared values.
9. Worship moves the school community to action as they can reflect how they can contribute to change through charity, campaigns, and courageous advocacy.
10. Worship engages partnerships with the wider community.

## 3. Implementation of collective worship

- The Trust Chaplain establishes the worship themes and provides the resources to support Form Tutors for the academic year.
- Each week students experience a different theme (such as charity, betrayal, forgiveness).
- All students attend two acts of collective worship per week. One is a whole year group assembly led by the Trust Chaplain/ School Senior Leaders. The other takes place during Form Time (Form Reflection).
- Assemblies and form reflection address themes through real-life examples using stories, multi-media, and the Gospels. Each assembly has a period for quiet reflection, which may involve listening to a prayer, or a piece of music, a story, or simply a period of silence and stillness.
- The collective assemblies of year groups are complemented by form reflection which follows the same themes and is supported by materials prepared by the chaplaincy team so that students are all included and involved.
- In addition, students will attend a Harvest, Christmas and Easter service and other key events (such as Faith Day).
- At key points in the year, supported by the Trust's Chaplain leaders of other faiths are invited to take assembly, e.g., the Mufti takes assemblies for Ramadan to recognise and celebrate what faith means to us as a school community.
- Alongside our weekly acts of collective worship and services staff and students observe a number of national days of remembrance such as Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day.
- Regular voluntary Eucharists takes place within the school assembly pattern.
- Our multi faith prayer room is available for staff and students to use during breaks and lunchtimes to aid prayer, stillness and reflection

#### 4. Rights of withdrawal

At the Brian Clarke Academy we seek to create an environment where worship is invitational and inclusive. The attendance of students to collective worship and Religious Studies lessons is expected in that parents have applied for their child to attend a Church of England school and in doing so subscribe to the school's ethos, values, and day to day practises.

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from collective worship this must be made in writing and following a parental discussion with the Headteacher.

The school has a system for suitable supervision for students withdrawn from acts of collective worship however no additional work is set or followed in this time. The right of withdrawal does not extend to general assemblies or form time sessions.

#### 5. Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship is treated like any other area of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivering, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The Trust Chaplain, Senior Leaders and any staff member responsible for delivering acts of collective worship plans high quality materials in line with the schools' principles for teaching and learning. Whilst the themes are set for the academic year the pattern is flexible to respond appropriately if needed to local, national or global events.

Collective worship is evaluated through quantitative measures on impacts of positive and negative behaviours and also qualitative learning walks, pupils and staff voice. This data is responded to immediately if appropriate or informs longer term improvement planning.