

Policy Document**Collective Worship Policy****Purpose**

- To fulfil the national statutory requirements on collective worship for all state schools.
- To raise awareness and understanding amongst students of the spiritual, religious and moral aspects of life.
- To increase appreciation and respect for Christianity and other worldviews that exist in our world.

Guidance

In May 2013, the DfE published information for academies and free schools about providing religious education (RE) and collective worship.

This information has now been archived, but remains current.

A section on 'academies and daily collective worship' states:

An academy's funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in maintained schools. Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation.

Principles

Stanchester Academy believes that collective worship should be a reflection of the important value questions in life. We believe that students, regardless of their religious or philosophical backgrounds, should be encouraged, inspired and challenged by the religious and moral questions they experience. Stanchester Academy believes that its collective worship should recognise our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide acts of Collective Worship which we believe help children understand some of the features and values of being part of a broadly Christian community. These are:

- praise
- reflection
- celebration
- thanks
- saying sorry
- sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

Policy Document

Collective worship at Stanchester also takes place through weekly themes. The weekly themes for assembly are published in the school handbook at the start of each Academic year. Collective worship takes place through reflection upon these themes through weekly assemblies and daily guidance time sessions.

Opportunities exist throughout the curriculum for individual reflection time.

Parents' right to withdraw their child

Parents can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship. Reasons for removing their child do not need to be given. It remains the school's responsibility to make appropriate alternative arrangements to supervise a child withdrawn in accordance with DfE guidance.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will monitor the fulfilment of the national statutory requirements through its Leadership and management Committee. The policy will be assessed annually both in terms of its implementation and effectiveness.

In reviewing the Policy the Governing Body will take in to account views expressed by parents, students and staff.