



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

HAZEL LEYS ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: May 2024

Next Review: May 2026

Aims and purpose

- * to provide an opportunity for children to experience worship
- * to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- * to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- * to encourage participation and response;
- * to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- * to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;

Collective worship

Worship is to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God, whilst acknowledging that many pupils are from other faith traditions which deserve respect or have no faith at all.

Collective worship involves all members of the academy coming together and participating in an assembly. It is expected that everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', assemblies are normally based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the academy.

While most acts of worship in the academy are Christian, assemblies are held that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the academy and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

The academy holds daily acts of collective worship:

- On a Monday and Friday, this takes the form of a whole academy assembly (although sometimes we also hold separate Foundation/Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 assemblies).
- On Tuesdays and Thursdays, each class participates in a planned 'reflection time' in their classroom.
- On Wednesdays, the whole academy gathers for a singing or reading assembly.

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way and are a period of calm reflection. It is regarded as a special time, and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. Pupils are asked to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in reflection and songs. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Executive Principal/Head of Academy or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious or community groups.

The themes of our assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith and other faith traditions from the agreed syllabus, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Other themes of assemblies are related to topics that are taught as part of the academy curriculum (British Values, SMSC and PSHE). Assemblies are planned well in advance of the day they take place (see Annual Assembly Plan).

Academy assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Children are encouraged to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other pupils, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the academy, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognized. Hazel Leys Academy is a successful academy, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children in assemblies.

Each week there is an achievement assembly that parents are invited to attend. Their attendance is encouraged, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the academy and the families working together in support of the children's achievements.

Academy Advisory Council members attendance at assemblies is always welcome.

Right of withdrawal

All children are expected to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Principal keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.