

Eastwood Park Academy Trust (EPAT)

EPAT

Believe Succeed Together

Collective Worship Policy

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1.0 Collective Worship

1.1 Legality

The 1988 Education Act places a requirement on all schools to provide a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1.2 Nature

The Trust's ethos and aims are broadly Christian in nature, but also reflect the values and beliefs of other faiths.

The constituent academies in the Trust do not have any religious affiliation and no attempt will be made to convert pupils to any particular religious viewpoint.

Acts of collective worship are inclusive, appropriate and in line with the Trust's Equality Policy.

1.3 Delivery

Acts of collective worship may take place at any time during the school day. Pupils may be grouped in any way according to the discretion of the Principal e.g. whole school, class groups, tutor groups etc. The only exception to this principle is that pupils may not be put into special groups purely for collective worship - an act of this kind could be interpreted as contravening the Equality Act 2010 and the Trust's Equality Policy.

1.4 Examples

The following is not an exhaustive list but typical examples across the primary and secondary phases:

- Assemblies covering key festivals for different faiths, important global themes/celebrations etc.
- Tutor activities involving debate and discussion.
- Silent reflection.
- Thought of the day/week.
- Celebrating success events.
- Charity work.

1.5 Benefits

Meaningful collective worship enables pupils to reflect on:

- What it means to be a human being.
- Questions of meaning, purpose and value.
- The best that human beings can be – inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated this through their actions, lives and qualities.
- Personal beliefs and values.

Collective worship can enrich the experiences of pupils by:

- Enabling pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole.
- Reinforcing a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common.
- Developing a reflective approach to life.
- Supporting pupils in the development of social, spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives.
- Developing a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now.
- Providing time to consider values and beliefs – both their own and those of others.
- Raising awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community.
- Providing the opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration.
- Supporting pupils in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses.
- Supporting those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.

1.6 Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. The right of withdrawal may be exercised for any reason and the Principal should be notified in writing.

Staff have the right not to attend acts of collective worship and, should they wish to exercise that right, must notify their line manager in writing.