



# **Collective Worship Policy**

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**Newbury Academy Trust**

September 2017

## Collective Worship Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 "Academy", "Academy Trust" all refer to Newbury Academy Trust, Love Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DU. School refers to one of the three schools within the Newbury Academy Trust, Trinity School, Love Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DU; Fir Tree School, Fir Tree Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2RA; Speenhamland School, Pelican Lane, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1NU.
- 1.2 The term Governor refers to both Full Governing Body Trustees and Local Governing Body Governors.

### 2. Policy, Rationale and Aims

- 2.1 The 1988 Education Act states that all students in attendance at a comprehensive school, up to the age of eighteen, unless excused the right at the request of their parents, shall take part in an act of collective worship of a broadly Christian nature.
- 2.2 The Newbury Academy Trust schools are required to 'promote the spiritual development of pupils and provide a daily act of collective worship'.
- 2.3 Newbury Academy Trust schools are committed to the view that all students should be treated with dignity and respect. In line with Article 30 of the United Nations Charter of Children's Rights all Trust schools seek to:
  - Develop a culture which values everybody, providing the opportunity for all students to learn and express themselves in an environment free of prejudice.
  - To help students to develop their self-esteem and confidence.
  - Provide an appropriate learning experience for all students, whatever colour, origin, culture, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ability.
  - Encourage students to be open to new ideas.
  - Maintain diversity amongst students.
  - Ensure that all staff educates against any form of prejudice or negative stereotyping.
- 2.4 In the Newbury Academy Trust schools, we provide a caring and supportive environment to all of our children and students so that they can:
  - Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
  - Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
  - Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
  - Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.

- 2.5 A Collective Act of Worship is delivered regularly in all schools. This is done through assemblies which are planned as part of the whole programme to promote and develop Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) education and through teaching relating to British Values. At Primary level, this can be done through circle time and PSHE lessons as well.
- 2.6 The Trust will occasionally use speakers from different faith communities and organisations to deliver the Collective Act of Worship and enhance the experience for our children/students.

### 3. Delivery

- There is a weekly timetable for assemblies. These are used to encourage reflection during this time.
- Students/children are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership of these assemblies.
- Students/children and staff are encouraged to get involved in various charitable events through the academic year.
- Religious Studies is delivered to all students/children in all Key Stages by experienced and dedicated teachers.
- Newbury Academy Trust has a close relationship with Shaw Church and the schools use the church for services on an annual basis.

### 4. Rights of withdrawal

- 4.1 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Permission will be sought for children/students to miss occasional assemblies for extra tuition.

### 5. Record and Evaluation

- 5.1 The Newbury Academy Trust will review this policy on a two-yearly basis.

<b>Authorised by</b>	Resolution of the Board of Trustees
<b>Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Effective Date of the Policy</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Effective Date for Review</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019