



Iffley Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship

Under present law non-faith academies must provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a Christian character. The Iffley Academy has considered the legal requirement together with the special needs of our students when formulating this policy.

The Iffley Academy seeks to reflect the religious backgrounds within our community in its collective worship and Religious Education and we believe that we are delivering the most appropriate religious education and experiences to our students following the spirit of the law.

The Iffley Academy believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of academy life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the day for the space it gives pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. The emphasis is on active and enjoyable participation where pupils are encouraged to acknowledge their wider membership of the whole school and all parts of the community we live in.

Aims

It is our aim at Iffley Academy that collective worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow time for reflection
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, and occasions of significance e.g. festivals, end of term achievement assemblies.
- Celebrate the achievements of significant people from history and contemporary society, e.g. Black History Month, Roles of women during conflict, etc.

- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others e.g. Children in Need, Comic Relief, Genes for Genes, etc.
- Grow an understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and belief
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen the sense of wonder about the world
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the whole community
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Take into account students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds
- Develop British Values of tolerance, respect and empathy



Practice

At Iffley Academy we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework.

There are assemblies each week for every student in the academy.

In addition, class circle time and discussion sessions offer opportunities to discuss the content of the assembly further, often using a range of additional resources e.g. video clips, worksheets, etc. More in-depth work may be undertaken by the School Council or Student Leaders.

Collective worship is led by members of the senior and extended leadership team. Below is an example programme of assemblies.

Approaches

We adopt a wide range of approaches to provide a variety of experiences, including:

- Storytelling
- Drama
- Visual aids and artefacts
- Films and moving image
- Music
- Silence
- Students' contributions
- Visitors

Song/music

Songs and music are a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. Music from a variety of cultures and types is used on occasions and is selected carefully to match the theme.

Prayer/reflection

We believe that pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some students to respond in a personal way if they wish.

Rights of withdrawal

At Iffley Academy we seek to be an inclusive community, however, we respect the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children for collective worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.