



AHMAT

Collective Worship & Spirituality Policy

September
2025 - 2026

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2010) Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'
- DfE (1994) Religious education and collective worship (Circular 1/94)

VISION STATEMENT FOR AHMAT

Ashley Hill Multi Academy Trust is committed to securing the best outcome for every child in its schools within a learning environment characterised by a distinctive Christian ethos.

We value the uniqueness and individuality of every school in the Trust, encouraging each to develop to meet the particular needs of all its pupils and the community it serves, underpinned by a common commitment to work together, making full use of all the Trust's resources, to enhance the experience and opportunities of all.

In line with our core Christian beliefs and principles, we want each school to be in an educational community where:

- all are welcome, whatever their cultural, ethnic or religious background;
- all will flourish, with a particular focus on supporting any who are disadvantaged culturally, socially, economically, physically, or in any other way;
- all will have a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith;
- each individual is encouraged and helped to discover and develop their God-given gifts and talents to the fullest extent;
- all will fulfil their potential in a way appropriate for their age, both academically and as well-rounded, independent, emotionally mature individuals.

Introduction

At AHMAT we recognise our statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for all our pupils, and will provide 20 minutes of worship a day to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At AHMAT we define spirituality as "The deepest values and meanings by which we live", with an emphasis on personal growth, aspiration and a deepening of our own faith/understanding of faith in order to guide us in our individual lives, acknowledging our innate sense of awe and wonder at what lies beyond ourselves.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

Our aim is to: establish the right learning environment to enable the spiritual development of all pupils through the following objectives:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos as a church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values
- Draw on the values of Friendship, Perseverance, Compassion, Forgiveness, Courage and Creativity and Biblical teachings that underpins our Trust vision, of

Encourage one another and build each other up

1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own;
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- Develop strategies to build good mental health;
- Use "Space Makers" daily to allow children to flourish as God intended, knowing that they are loved, and have the opportunity to learn spiritual practice in a familiar and comfortable environment.
- Using regular contemplation practice "Space Makers" to encourage young people to develop healthy habits for the future to help them find peace, hope and fulfilment in life
- Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions;
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life;
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others;
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination;
- Develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty, nature, unexpected etc
- Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation and foster it where and when we can.

These objectives will enable the pupils to have a quality of life that encompasses respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, understanding and relationships that reflect order, reason, balance and integrity within the context of Christian faith.

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

As Church of England schools our Collective Worship will be Christian in character and will aim to reflect the Anglican tradition in appropriate ways, but may incorporate the insights of other faiths and traditions where suitable.

We recognise that the development of spirituality is important for all children, regardless of their faith or beliefs. Therefore, as a Christian school, we teach the children about the Holy Trinity and about Christian understanding of spirituality.

We also encourage the children to look around them; to value the beauty of the world, be understanding towards all humanity and to understand and relate to their own emotions.

AIMS:

Collective Worship should provide a daily time when children and other members of the school can:

- reflect on self-worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God;
- understand their relationship with others in the wider world and cultivate an appreciation of difference and diversity. Learning to value and respect all people of whatever faith as human beings made in the image of God;
- reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc;
- realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth and development;
- explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life;
- pause, reflect and give praise and thanks to God;
- reflect on and express their own faith;
- grow together as a community sharing the Christian ethos and values of the school;
- learn about and increase their understanding of the Christian faith;
- understand the world from the perspective of a Christian 'worldview';
- reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore a variety of ways of praying, and introduce the children to some well-known prayers e.g. The Lord's Prayer.

HYMNS AND SONGS:

A 'core repertoire' of hymns and songs will be developed through Singing Practice and reinforced by use in collective worship and school church services.

ORGANISATION AND PLANNING:

The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with the Right to withdraw section of this policy.

Worship will broadly be of a **Christian** character.

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Local Governing Board.

The act of worship will be held for **20 minutes daily** in the **school hall**.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the AHMAT Visitors Policy during their visit.

The school will understand that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, and, although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two will be considered.

Where appropriate, each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing board.

The precise pattern may vary from time to time, but in any one week will include several of the following:

- God's Storyteller
- Singing Collective Worship
- Christian and British Values Collective Worship
- Visitors Collective Worship
- Class Collective Worship
- Celebration Collective Worship
- Key Stage Collective Worship
- Class Collective Worship using value for the term

Worship times are normally at 8:50 a.m. each morning.

Merit certificates, 'star of the week', sports awards, house points etc. will be awarded during whole School collective worship on Fridays.

'Celebration' collective worship - classes, councils or house groups take turns to lead these by sharing an act of worship. Parents are invited by class teachers to attend these collective workshops.

20 minutes will normally be allocated for this each day, although a little longer may be allowed for Celebration Worship or when a visitor is leading. Whatever the particular format, each session will include some element of worship, preferably within a liturgical framework.

SCHOOL PRAYER:

The School Prayer is used together in classes before lunch each day.

PLANNING/THEMES:

The content and methodology of collective worship is varied:

- Themes are generally based on God's Storyteller, which is based on the Church 3 year calendar; Values from Roots & Fruits or they may arise naturally from the Christian year, world news, local events, or issues of particular significance to the school community (e.g. behaviour, bereavement).
- Extended reflection on a single theme (e.g. love, creation, Where is GOD? etc.) will be planned from time to time
- The Bible is used as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- Christian symbols are used during worship.
- Experiencing the bond of community, which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions. This could be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead collective worship.

STAFF INVOLVEMENT:

Although teachers have the right not to take part in Collective Worship, they are encouraged to do so as an important aspect of the life of a church school. They are also encouraged to lead Collective Worship as an aspect of their own professional development.

All teachers are expected to attend most worship sessions and especially when visiting a church.

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION:

- Through the children's responsiveness and attentiveness. Children will be asked their views on a regular basis through pupil voice and pupil surveys.
- Worship will be discussed at staff and governor meetings, evaluating such aspects as methodology, suitability for age and variety of styles.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL:

The Education Acts 1988 and 1993 give parents the right to withdraw a child from R.E. and Collective Worship, but the child will be made to feel valued for his/her belief. Circular 1/94 - Page 17 - 18. Para 44 - 45.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Head of School following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions between the Head of School and parents, following written confirmation of withdrawal.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an **annual** basis by the headteacher in agreement with the CEO, Board of Director and Head of Schools.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2027.

Created or Reviewed by	Date	Changes
Isabel Cooke	01/12/2022	
Isabel Cooke	30/08/2024	Updates: • Statement of Intent • Legal Frameworks • Organisation and planning • Right to Review
Isabel Cooke	10/12/2025	No changes