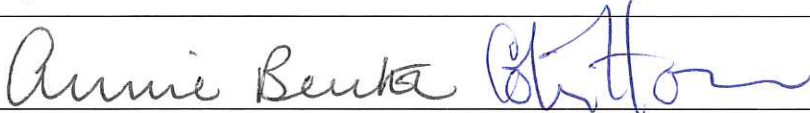


DOVE HOUSE SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST
COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY

Policy issued March 2015
Approved by Colin House, Headteacher, Annie Benton, Chair of Governors
Signed 
Approved at Governing Body on 26 th March 2015 Next Review to be March 2018

Principles:

Dove House School believes that 'collective worship' both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school 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 school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age learners take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'nominally' Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Aims:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and Beliefs

- explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Practice:

At Dove House School we combine our acts of worship with assembly and tutor time, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. There are 5 assemblies/tutor periods each week for every learner in the school. Tutors lead their groups through discussions, readings and reflections during tutor time. The Head and Deputy Head teacher or other senior staff lead a whole school assembly three times per week. One of which is specifically used to celebrate learners' success.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Head teacher.
- Parents of a learner have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head teacher.