

An Daras Multi-Academy Trust



St Stephens Community Academy Collective Worship Policy

The An Daras Multi Academy Trust (ADMAT) Company
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee
Company Number/08156955

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Recommended	
Statutory	Yes
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Review (v1.0)	Autumn Term 2017
Advisory Committee	Local Governing Advisory Bodies ADMAT Resources and Staffing
Linked Documents and Policies	SSCA Faith and Belief Policy 15 SSCA Collective Worship Timetable SSCA Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy 15 SSCA Schemes of Learning 15



St. Stephens Community Academy Collective Worship Policy



Introduction:

At St Stephens Community Academy we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Our Vision:

St Stephens Community Academy is a caring place where everyone feels valued, motivated and supported so all can move together towards a bright, positive and successful future.

Our Aims:

We aim for all our children to become:

- 1) **Safe and Strong** – To have a healthy body and mind
- 2) **Self-Confident** – To have high esteem and self confidence
- 3) **Socially Aware** – To be global citizens with good social skills
- 4) **Skilled** – To have learning skills for the modern world
- 5) **Soaring Stars** – To have a love of life in all its forms

Aims of Collective Worship:

The central aims of Collective Worship at St Stephens Community Academy are to;

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection;
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- celebrate the values and worth of the school and local community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children;
- help children develop and understanding both of the nature and language of worship;
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others;
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

The Legal Position:

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At St Stephens Community Academy we have developed a range of themes through which collective worship takes place. We believe these themes are in the majority clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith back-grounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld.

Inclusion:

Collective Worship at St Stephens Community Academy is an inclusive activity and it will make every effort to accommodate all pupils' needs. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Head of School.

St Stephens Community Academy values the contributions of everyone and appreciates diversity.

Context of Collective Worship:

In order to promote children's learning our acts of worship vary in size. An example pattern is set out below but this is often subject to slight change over the course of a year:

- **Monday** - Class based worship introducing theme
- **Tuesday** - Key Stage worship
- **Wednesday** - Class-based worship on theme
- **Thursday** - Key Stage worship

- **Friday** - Whole school (celebration assembly)

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

RRSA:

Within our Collective Worship teaching, we, as ADMAT Schools, aim to promote the UNCRC in all aspects of our work. This reflects our position as a Rights Respecting School.

Collective Worship relates to the UNCRC articles:

Article 2 (equality): 'The Convention applies to everyone: whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.'

Article 7 (equality): 'Every child has the right to a legal name and nationality, as well as the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.'

Article 13 (freedom of expression): 'Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.'

Article 14 (freedom of expression): 'Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.'

Article 17 (right to education): 'Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that children can understand.'

Article 28 (right to education): 'Every child has the right to an education.'

Article 29 (goals of education): 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.'

Article 30 (equality): 'Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, regardless of whether these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.'

Article 31 (freedom of expression): 'Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.'

Conclusion:

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Other relevant Policies /Documents:

The following policies need to be born in mind when reading this policy:

- SSCA Faith and Belief Policy 15
- SSCA SMSC Policy 15
- SSCA Collective Worship Timetable
- SSCA Schemes of Learning 15

This policy will be shared with all staff and be available on the SSCA website.

Review Timetable

This policy was agreed by the Local Governing Advisory Body in the Autumn Term 2015. It will be reviewed and updated by the Faith & Belief Leader in the Autumn Term 2017.

Signed

Head of School

Signed

Chair of Local Governing Body