COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Review Date	**October 2027**

An academy within:

Multi Academy Trust

"Learning together, to be the best we can be"

1. Statement of intent

1.1. All pupils at Abbey School are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

1.2. At Abbey School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"[1], though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

1.3. All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in a daily whole-school assembly, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

Legal framework

1.4. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.5. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Government guidance (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

Policy aims

1.6. Collective worship at Abbey School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.

[1] DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', pg.21, para.60

- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

2. Definition of collective worship

2.1. For the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

2.2. To **"take part"** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

3. Organisation and planning

3.1. The Executive Headteacher and Head of School are responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.

3.2. The act of worship will be held for 10 minutes daily from 12.45-12.50 and 1.15-1.20 in the school hall.

3.3. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the Senior Leadership Team and governing body.

3.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

3.5. The Executive Headteacher and Head of School will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

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

3.7. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Guest Speakers Policy during their visit.

4. Weekly collective worship programme

4.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Tuesday	An Upper School Worship assembly is delivered by the Assistant Headteacher(s) on Monday mornings.
Thursday	A Post 16 Worship assembly is delivered by the Assistant Headteacher(s) on Monday mornings.
Each Day	Both lower school and upper school dinnertimes start with a grace and moment of thanks.
Friday	An Lower School and Horizon Hub worship assembly is delivered by the Assistant Headteacher(s) on Friday mornings.
Class time	During the school day after break each class has a moment of reflection done through mindfulness.

5. Implementation

5.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective

worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

6. Right to withdraw

6.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

6.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

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

6.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

6.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

7. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

7.1. The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

7.2. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

8. Monitoring and review

8.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

8.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

8.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

8.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is October 2026