



## Trinity Academy Halifax

<b>Policy:</b>	Collective Worship Policy
<b>Date of review:</b>	January 2022
<b>Date of next review:</b>	January 2025
<b>Lead professional:</b>	Vice Principal - Student Support (or equivalent)
<b>Status:</b>	Non-Statutory

Our Academy is a caring Christian community. We do what is right for each and every student. Within this environment we aim to develop individuals of Christian character who can achieve their full potential; can think for themselves; will want to continue learning and will become responsible members of society. Our 4 core Christian values of empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility are reflected upon each day in collective worship and in student and staff absolutes. Our mission is to ensure that all students who leave Trinity Academy Halifax are equipped with the life skills to be supportive and respectful members of their local community.

*“Use whatever gift you have received to serve others” (1 Peter 4:10)*

### **Philosophy**

Trinity Academy Halifax is a Church of England Academy that opened in 2010 and re-located to a new building in 2012. In addition to diocesan sponsorship we have three other sponsors: the University of Huddersfield, Calderdale College and Calderdale Council. Many students attend the Academy having not attended Church before. However, what is important to us, is that all students of faith or not, are invited to embrace our Christian ethos and leave us with the Christian values of the Academy in their hearts and minds.

Our Christian values and the teaching of core RS enable us to develop our students holistically. We adapt to our cohort and, as well as developing students spiritually through collective worship, morally through the 4 core values and student absolutes and socially through the family focussed VT groups and all staff presence, we place much Christian value in developing student cultural capital.

Our Worship takes place in vertical tutor time and is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to uncover the immanent Creator God who is in all things, express and celebrate our commonality and encourage students and staff to reflect on how they live their lives. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. We take 2 minutes each day to stop, be still and recite the Academy prayer. It is a quiet moment in the day in which to take a breath and reflect.

At the Academy we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to support our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world wide Church.

### **Aims**

It is our aim at Trinity Academy Halifax that worship should:-

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include:
  - praise
  - seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or
  - quiet reflection
  - to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- promote community cohesion
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community

## **Types of Collective Worship**

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship is typically held during vertical tutor time.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the school Chaplain. The Chaplain co-ordinates Collective Worship in the school.

Our acts of Collective Worship enable students to explore:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The academy values of respect, responsibility, empathy and honesty.
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance; the importance of prayer; the central symbols of Christianity; the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship at Trinity Academy Halifax take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds, reflect, and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Trinity Academy Halifax we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This Academy expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Principal/Academy Chaplain, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship, however, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

On those days when a form group is not in an Act of Collective Worship the form tutors, students within the form group or Academy Chaplain will often develop /discuss the theological thought for the week. In order to facilitate and support this all tutor groups are provided with weekly 'theological thoughts', worship and reflection/discussion topics are also on the whole school screens in order to develop and deepen students' understanding of Christian themes.

The school's Chapel, our designated sacred space, is also available for acts of Collective Worship, should individual form tutors wish to use it; in addition the Chapel is visited by all Year 7 groups in order to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of its place within the school.

The school also utilises Halifax Minster, at important times within the Christian calendar, as a venue for collective worship. These services are led by our School Chaplain.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied (please refer to the table on page 3) and there should be evidence of this in planning; this is carried out, primarily, by the school Chaplain however vertical tutors and students are expected to engage and support/develop the themes as appropriate.

Each week there is a set of theological thoughts for Collective Worship. These are published on the SharePoint at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly notices sheet. It is expected that the Chaplain, when leading worship that week, will relate the worship to one of these themes and that vertical tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time, supported by the resources prepared for them. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

The collective worship pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that the Chaplain may feel that he needs to respond to local or national events. When this is the case the school may respond in a number of ways including reflection and discussion within individual forms, a collective act of reflection & remembrance and whole school worship.

It is expected that all students in each vertical tutor group have the opportunity to consider and respond to a theological thought each week. This will allow students to lead their form collective worship.

Collective Worship is discussed and evaluated termly by the student leader team and any improvements are made.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept in the '*staff shared resources folder*' and are updated weekly. The school has a budget to develop these resources. Extra Support for Collective Worship is also provided, as requested.

