



Trust Collective Worship Policy 2023

The Link Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity, regulated by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). All Members of the Board of Trustees of the exempt charity are also Directors of the company; the term 'Trustee' used in this Policy also means Director. This Policy applies to all staff within the Link Academy Trust.

The **aim** of collective worship is to provide the opportunity for all children to:

- respond in a meaningful way through the inclusive and invitational elements of the worship offered.
- develop a community spirit and a common ethos through shared vision and values held by the academy, (these being of a Christian foundation in church schools).
- celebrate occasions of significance, including festivals and also achievements within the academy and the wider community.
- enhance the spiritual dimension of human experience, as well as develop their moral, social, cultural and creative awareness.
- take time to breathe, be still and to reflect, as well as to be inspired.

Statutory Duty of Trust

All academies within a Multi Academy Trust should provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents).

The Academy Head is responsible (under the School Standards and framework Act of 1988) for arranging the daily collective worship (after consulting with the governing body in community schools) and the governing body is responsible in consultation with the Academy Head in church schools. Daily collective worship must be distinctively of a Christian character (in the case of church schools) and of a broadly Christian character in the case of other schools. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and aptitudes of the pupils. Consideration must be given not just to children who come from homes where the Christian faith is practised, but also to children whose parents are adherent to other faiths or children who are from a secular background. If it is deemed inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in collective Christian worship, the Academy Head may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on religious Education (SACRE) for a request (determination) to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the trusts deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or whole class, will:

- be acceptable to and inclusive of the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve all pupils
- be led by different members of the community at different times, including members of the clergy

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Trust should review the policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the individual academies.

Individual Academy Policies

The general principles of collective worship will take account of/respect the individual academy policies within the Trust.

This Policy is reviewed and approved by the Standards and Curriculum Committee on a 3-yearly cycle.

Approved by S&C Committee: 5th December 2023

Next review: Autumn 2026