



YORKSHIRE
Endeavour

academy trust

Ethical | Nurturing | Brave

Collective Worship Policy

Date of creation/review	Reason for review	Date of next review	Reviewer/Approval Body
January 2019			Trustees SILG FRAR LGB LGB-Finance CEO Headteacher
Spring 2026	YEAT Policy Cycle	Spring 2029	

Contents

Page

1. Purpose and Scope	1
2. Policy statement	1
3. Statutory Framework	1
4. Definition of Collective Worship	1
5. Aims	1
6. Rights Respecting Schools	2
7. Organisation across Trust Schools	2
8. Style and Character	2
9. Content of Collective Worship	3
10. Inclusion and Partnership	3
11. Visitors and External Contributors	3
12. Roles and Responsibilities	3
13. Withdrawal from Collective Worship	3
14. Monitoring and Review	3

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy sets out the Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust's expectations for the provision of collective worship across all schools within the Trust.

While the statutory framework and guiding principles are consistent across the Trust, the organisation and delivery of collective worship may vary between schools to reflect their age range, size, context and community.

Each school is responsible for implementing collective worship in line with this policy while ensuring that practice is appropriate for its pupils and consistent with statutory requirements.

2. Policy Statement

Collective worship plays an important role in strengthening the ethos and community of schools within the Trust.

Acts of collective worship provide opportunities for pupils and staff to gather together, reflect on shared values, celebrate achievements and consider spiritual, moral and ethical themes.

Provision is inclusive and designed so that pupils and adults of all faiths and of no faith can attend respectfully and participate in ways that are appropriate to them.

3. Statutory Framework

Schools within the Trust comply with the legal requirements for collective worship as set out in the Education Reform Act 1988 and subsequent guidance.

Collective worship is provided daily for all pupils in attendance at Trust schools.

For schools without a religious designation, acts of collective worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, while remaining inclusive and respectful of the diverse beliefs represented within the school community.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Requests for withdrawal should be made to the headteacher. Appropriate arrangements will be made for pupils who are withdrawn.

4. Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a time when members of the school community come together to reflect on shared values, beliefs and experiences.

It may include moments of stillness, reflection, prayer or other forms of thoughtful engagement, though participation in prayer or personal reflection is always invitational and never compulsory.

5. Aims

Collective worship across the Trust aims to:

- promote a sense of belonging and shared community
- support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development
- reinforce the values and ethos of the Trust and its schools
- provide opportunities for reflection, stillness and thoughtful engagement

- encourage respect for different faiths, beliefs and worldviews
- celebrate achievement and recognise the value and contribution of every individual
- promote understanding of children's rights and responsibilities in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the principles of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award.

6. Rights Respecting Schools

Many schools within the Trust embed the principles of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) as part of their ethos and curriculum.

Collective worship may provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on children's rights as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Themes explored in collective worship may include rights such as:

- the right to education (Article 28)
- the right to be heard and express views (Article 12)
- the right to be safe and protected (Article 19)
- the right to play and rest (Article 31)

Through collective worship, pupils are encouraged to consider how these rights are connected with respect, responsibility and the wellbeing of others within their school community and beyond.

7. Organisation across Trust Schools

Each school within the Trust provides a daily act of collective worship.

The format and organisation of collective worship may vary between schools and may include whole-school gatherings, phase assemblies, class-based reflection or other appropriate groupings.

Schools may incorporate celebration assemblies, reflection time or themed gatherings as part of their overall provision for collective worship.

8. Style and Character

Collective worship should be meaningful, inclusive and engaging for pupils.

Acts of worship or reflection should:

- promote a sense of community and shared identity
- encourage spiritual reflection and curiosity about life's big questions
- support pupils' understanding of moral and ethical issues
- provide opportunities for music, storytelling, reflection and celebration
- enable pupils to participate where appropriate
- be well planned and of high quality

9. Content of Collective Worship

Collective worship may include a variety of approaches and materials such as stories, music, readings, reflection, celebration of achievements and consideration of important events or themes.

Themes may include school values, significant religious festivals, national or global events, children's rights themes, and topics that support pupils' personal development.

10. Inclusion and Participation

Collective worship is inclusive of pupils and staff of all faiths and none.

No pupil or adult will be required to make a declaration of faith or participate in any activity that conflicts with their personal beliefs.

Opportunities to pray or reflect are offered as invitations rather than expectations.

11. Visitors and External Contributors

Visitors, including representatives from faith communities or other organisations, may contribute to collective worship where appropriate.

All visitors must support the inclusive ethos of the school and the Trust.

Visitors should not seek to promote a particular religious or political viewpoint in a way that attempts to influence pupils' beliefs.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

The Trust Board holds overall responsibility for ensuring that statutory requirements are met across the Trust.

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring that collective worship is provided in accordance with this policy and statutory requirements.

Staff may contribute to the planning and delivery of collective worship as appropriate.

13. Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship on grounds of conscience.

Requests should be made in writing to the headteacher who will discuss the arrangements with parents.

Schools will ensure that pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised.

14. Monitoring and Review

Schools will monitor the quality and impact of collective worship as part of their wider evaluation of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Trust to ensure continued compliance with statutory requirements and best practice.