



## Collective Worship Policy – DCP 014

**Policy Owner:** Mia Stoller

**Policy Date:** 7 March 2017

### Introduction

Some form of collective worship within schools is a legal requirement imposed by the Education Reform Act 1988 and confirmed in the Education Act 1996. There is an obligation imposed on us by our Academies funding agreement to hold some form of daily act of collective worship within our schools.

The Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust is not a faith-based institution and has no desire or intention to impose a particular set of religious views on its pupils. Equally, we do believe that an act of collective worship, when used properly, can help to promote a positive culture and environment within the school community.

This policy broadly follows the guidance issued by the London Borough of Havering on Religious Education (SACRE) issued in 2013.

### Scope

This policy applies to all staff and pupils of the Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). It also applies to parents and carers of pupils at schools within the MAT, who formally confirm that they will abide by our policies when their children join our schools.

Each school within the MAT must ensure that the contents of this policy are communicated to all staff. This communication must be evidenced in writing and refreshed on an annual basis. All parents must formally accept this policy when their children join a MAT school and this acceptance must be evidenced in writing through the Home-School Agreement.

Each school within the MAT must publish this policy on its website.

### Definitions

<b>Child</b>	Anyone under the age of 18.
<b>COO</b>	Chief Operating Officer.
<b>LGB</b>	Local Governing Body, with delegated powers of governance from the board of the MAT.
<b>MAT</b>	Drapers' Multi-Academy Trust.
<b>Parent</b>	Those having parental responsibility for the care of a Child (including Carers).
<b>Pupil</b>	Anyone enrolled at a MAT school (including students in Years 12 and 13).
<b>SACRE</b>	Standard Advisory Council on Religious Education.



**Staff** Anyone employed by the MAT.

### **Policy**

1. The Principal of each school has the responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of this policy are followed. They must report to the LGB on an annual basis to confirm that this has been the case.
2. When applying the policy requirements below, the Principal should take into account the guidance provided by SACRE.
3. Subject to the right of withdrawal (see next section), all pupils must take part in an act of collective worship or reflection on each school day. This includes all sixth form students in secondary schools.
4. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and sixth formers have the right to withdraw themselves. The right of withdrawal may be exercised for any reason and should be notified in writing. Teachers have the right not to attend and, should they wish to exercise that right, must notify their line manager in writing. There will be no discrimination against anyone who exercises this right.
5. The right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies that are distinct from acts of collective worship.
6. Acts of collective worship may take place at any time during the school day and will not count as part of the taught school day.
7. Pupils may be grouped in any way for the act of collective worship according to the discretion of the Principal e.g. whole school, class groups, tutor groups etc. The only exception to this principle is that pupils may not be put into special groups purely for collective worship.
8. Most acts of collective worship must be of a broadly Christian character. Accordingly, it must reflect the broad teachings of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
9. Acts of worship must be inclusive and appropriate for the pupils.
10. The schools within the MAT do not have any religious affiliation and no attempt will be made to convert children to any particular religious viewpoint.

### **Review**

10. The policy owner must keep up to date with relevant legislation and government guidance and update this policy whenever necessary. The board of the MAT must approve the revised version.



11. The policy owner must review the policy at the end of July each year and either submit a revised policy for board approval or confirm in writing to the COO that the current version of this policy is still fit for purpose.
12. The COO must submit a list of all confirmed policies to the board at the first meeting of each new academic year.
13. The MAT board must formally review and re-approve this policy every five years.