

Collective Worship Policy

Date Implemented: June 2015

Review Date: June 2018

Rationale:

Digitech believes that collective worship can support and strengthen what we aim to do in many aspects of school life. Our ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our approach to worship. Digitech believes that coming together regularly helps to develop a team spirit and community ethos which is central to the school's aims.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age students take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the students”. We recognise that in asking our young people to worship we have to consider their background and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to, or convert students. The faith background of both the staff, students and their family is respected at all times.

Aims:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children and young people to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
 - Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
 - Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
 - Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
 - Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
 - Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
 - Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
 - Develop students' sense of confidence and self-worth by celebrating the diverse talents within our community
 - Develop the academy's sense of collective social conscience both locally and globally
- The CREATE framework supports students in considering how they work with others, an important element of Collective worship:

- **Communication:** Collective worship models open and honest communication about important questions and encourages students to communicate their own views with confidence and consideration of others
- **Relating to others:** By considering others' views, and sharing in collective worship, students are encouraged to consider themselves as one of a community, where they share and consider the impact of their views and choices on others
- **Enterprise:** By using thought provoking and wide-reaching stimuli, students are encouraged to consider a wider set of perspectives, offering them the opportunity to examine their views and consider them in depth. This supports students to develop and consider their own morality and values.
- **Applied:** Shared responsibilities for collective worship gives students chances to apply their own view of issues, and their skills as communicators. The opportunity to

include industry partners also gives students a sense of a wider community beyond their school and the local area.

- **Thinking:** Important questions and opportunity for students to reflect will encourage them to think more deeply about their views and decisions. In addition, personal coaching time will support and expect students to develop a more reflective approach to their decision making
- **Emotional intelligence:** All elements of the collective worship support community whilst giving the space to embrace difference. By modelling and expecting this, Digitech will offer a firm foundation for students to build their emotional intelligence. Process/general principles:

Digitech has regular tutor sessions throughout the week, and assemblies for each year group at least once a week. These assemblies are primarily intended to celebrate and share in student successes, and to give industry partners an opportunity to communicate with and support students in their projects. Whilst there will regularly be elements of collective worship in these assemblies, a large proportion of Digitech's collective worship will occur in House or tutor groups..

Please see additional guidance on assemblies in Appendix 1

Roles and responsibilities

- The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the academy council.
- The Deputy Principal is responsible for planning one set of weekly assemblies. The Assistant Principal is responsible for planning the other set.
- All Form Tutors ensure that meaningful activities take place (as described above) in tutor time.
- All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Principal.
- Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent/carer asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the academy the academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent/carer who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal.
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006 makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.
- The Principal is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the academy prospectus and main annual posting in September.