



THE
DE LA SALLE
ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Issue No	Author/Owner	Date Written	To Governors	Date Approved	Comments
1	DLSA	July 2020	October 2020	October 2020	Review 2021
2					
3					

Collective Worship Policy

Aim

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are Christian in nature and rooted in the Lasallian tradition
- reflect on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the opportunities for worship offered
- offer pupils appropriate silence so that they can contemplate and respond to God in their own way

Mission Statement: Semper Fidelis “Always Faithful”

DLSA is a Catholic academy in the Lasallian tradition. Our mission is to educate our boys in a way that allows them to experience their own dignity and treat others in a dignified manner. Our entire mission can be summed up in our motto: Semper Fidelis. As a Catholic community we are faithful to the Gospel values of love, justice and inclusivity. Our academy is open to all boys, those who are Catholic and those who are not. Christ is at the centre of all we do and as such we attempt to follow the example of Jesus Christ in our work, worship and relationships. As a Catholic academy we believe that there should be regular opportunities for members of our community to join together in prayer, reflection and worship. The school recognizes that there are formal and informal occasions when this is possible and that there are many forms of prayer and worship. The school seeks to encourage new ideas in Liturgy and prayer that will appeal to as many of our community as possible. In particular, and to respect the plurality of faith within the Academy, silence is utilized so that individuals have the space to speak to God in their own way.

As a Lasallian in the community we aim to:

- Be a prayerful community based on Christian values, notably Love, Justice, Peace, Truth and Inclusivity, and to encourage individuals in their commitment to these ideals.
- Help young people to grow into confident, open, resourceful young people with a sense of responsibility and service who can take their place in the world; by inspiring people and breaking down boundaries.
- Provide a secure, welcoming and ordered environment in which individuals learn to value and respect both themselves and others.
- Give each person the opportunity to develop their full potential as a human being, and to encourage and challenge them to do so.
- Encourage each person to give of their best and to strive for the highest standards of achievement.

Opportunities for Worship

1.1 We take account of and acknowledge other faiths and are mindful of the need of the whole community for spiritual development.

Morning & Afternoon Line Up

1.2 Each morning of the school day starts with a pupil; line up and a rededication to our Lasallian tradition. Pupils are invited to take a moment of silence and solemnly repeat our school motto: Semper Fidelis. This moment binds our academy to the thousand other Lasallian schools globally.

Registration/Form Tutor time

1.3 Each day begins with an experience of Collective Worship. Form Tutors are required to lead prayers or arrange for prayers to be said. There should be a moment for reflection on a topic or issue that prompts students to think about others and about their relationship with God. The academy prayer journal offers guidance about prayers that may be used but Form Tutors are free to use their own prayers or those of students. The format of collective worship should be as follows:

- Our academy prayer should be used on a Monday and Friday
- One day a week should be used for the exploration of the five Lasallian Core Values.
- One day should be given to the practice of silence and contemplation

Weekly Assemblies

1.4 The weekly assembly for each year group is an important event as it symbolises our community and unity of purpose and is an opportunity for us to reflect and pray together.

The assembly will be led by the Head of Year, Form class or a Senior Member of staff. Occasionally, guest speakers will be invited to lead assemblies. The central purpose of the assembly is the opportunity for the year group to pray together, so Heads of Year have a responsibility to ensure that this is achieved.

School Liturgies and Mass

1.5 Throughout the year there are opportunities for the community to worship and experience Liturgy, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic. Liturgy should be age-appropriately prepared in conjunction with the RE Lead and relevant senior staff who belong to the Ethos Committee. Students should be given every opportunity to participate in the preparation and leading of liturgies. Key liturgies include:

- Beginning of the school year
- Advent
- Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Easter
- Founders Day – Liturgy of the Eucharist
- End of school year

The RE Coordinator and Heads of Year will work together to realise this and have clear roles and responsibilities.

The Ethos Committee, which includes staff, governor and Lasallian representation, will oversee the development and quality assurance of collective worship and liturgical preparation.

Special consideration will be given to key seasons of the Church's year e.g. Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter & Founders day.

There will be a whole staff liturgy at the start of the school year and at appropriate times during the year.

Retreat Experiences

1.6 We aim to offer all members of the school community retreat experiences. All pupils will have the opportunity of an in school or off site retreat day every year.

Staff will be offered the opportunity of a retreat and points of reflection both in and out of school.

Governors and senior staff will have the opportunity of retreats and points of reflection within the wider Lasallian family.

Wider Links

1.7 The school will support and encourage participation in opportunities for worship and witness of faith offered by the parishes Our Lady's and St. Teresa's and in the wider Archdiocesan community. Each Year the school is present at the Archdiocese Advent & Lent Liturgies as well as the end of Year 7 Mass.

Monitoring

1.8 Acts of collective worship will be monitored and quality assured by RE Lead, SLT and the pastoral team. Observation records are written up and shared with members of staff.

Ongoing Formation and Spiritual development of staff

1.9 In order to support and nurture the ongoing spiritual formation of staff the academy has three experiences each week of whole staff collective worship, which is led by a member of SLT.

Every Tuesday 'Always Faithful' (Staff Prayer Group) meets at 8.00am to pray and reflect.

Staff are encouraged to take part in the Province events, all of which are funded by the academy.

Two sessions of CPD on Collective Worship are provided each academic year and the school year began with a whole day INSET on Mission and Ethos from the Lasallian Provincial.

Guidelines for Acts of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in Form Time

2.1 The act of collective worship should:

- have a formal beginning e.g. the sign of the cross
- contain a point of reflection e.g. on a theme, a prayer, an image or music
- have a prayer led by pupils or with pupil involvement
- have a formal end e.g. "Live Jesus in our Hearts: Forever", "Amen" at the end of a prayer or the sign of the cross
- The use of silence

There should be a moment's pause before any notices are read out or other business attended to.

Collective Worship in Assembly

2.2 The following guidelines apply to acts of collective worship in assemblies:

- Pupils to arrive quietly or in silence having been assembled in form groups at the assembly point outside the Hall or the corridor if it is wet.
- Pupils to be shown into their rows in an orderly manner by form tutors who remain with them.
- The assembly to begin with a formal greeting.
- The act of collective worship to be formally introduced e.g. with the sign of the cross or a brief introduction.
- A pause for reflection to be included.
- A time of formal prayer to be included.
- Form tutors to actively support the act of collective worship by sitting with or standing beside their pupils and by actively participating in the prayer or reflection.
- A formal end to mark the completion of the collective act of worship e.g. 'amen' at the end of the prayer or with the sign of the cross.
- Notices to be given out when the act of collective worship has formally ended.

The assembly will be led by the Head of Year, SLT, Form Classes, Groups of pupils, or a senior member of staff. Pupils, wherever possible, should be involved in the preparation and delivery of assemblies and acts of collective worship.

Special consideration will be given to key seasons of the Church's year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and also to the start of the school year for students and at the end of the year with leavers' masses.