



Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy

Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	Stephen King
Date of Policy:	October 2020
Status & Review Cycle:	Annual
Next Review Date:	October 2021

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy has been developed in accordance with the guidance provided in the national curriculum in England and the statutory requirements of circular number 1/94 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'.
- 1.2 Manchester Enterprise Academy believes in a 'A Fantastic Future for All' its students and therefore the opportunity to take part in collective worship supports this core principal. Our strong pastoral support and outstanding SMSC gives students the opportunity to explore religious beliefs and ideas, as well as our Fantastic Futures and Power and Belief curriculum.
- 1.3 It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for most of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".
- 1.4 Families who send their children to Manchester Enterprise Academy are in the main from a range of faith backgrounds and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking pupils to worship we must consider the background that they come from and it is therefore not the practice of this academy to enforce compulsory worship. We believe the regular use of moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some students to respond in a personal way if they so wish, respecting the faith background of both the staff and the pupils' families at all times.

2 Aims and Purpose

- 2.1 Collective Worship provides us an opportunity to collect together in reflection, acting as a focal point of the day where students and staff, meet and establish a shared sense of identity. Our collective acts of worship are inclusive, participative, challenging and educational and draw on a wide range of religious traditions, without compromising the religious or non-religious backgrounds of pupils, whilst giving those for whom it is appropriate the opportunity to worship God and are delivered in a way which is practical for a large academy.
- 2.2 Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for young people to:
 - Become increasingly aware of their own ideas, beliefs and values
 - Promote the values of the school
 - Develop a sense of community
 - Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
 - Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
 - Grow in confidence
 - Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
 - To celebrate diversity and promote tolerance and respect

3 Collective Acts of Worship

- 3.1 Manchester Enterprise Academy combines our acts of worship with assembly and tutor time, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework.
- 3.2 Assemblies are a key feature of school life. All students will have an opportunity to come together weekly to reflect and allow opportunity to engage with cultural and spiritual events and celebrations as appropriate. There is one assembly each week for each student in the school. These assemblies are linked to specific moral, ethical or spiritual themes. Topics and are delivered by a range of staff, visitors and at times, students. Our assemblies promote our shared values of Safe, Respectful, Ready.
- 3.3 There is no nationally agreed length of time for collective worship. We believe that 20 minutes per day in either assembly or tutor time is a suitable length of time for collective worship and reflection.
- 3.4 The Principal or other senior staff lead the whole school assemblies each week. Students are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership at certain times of the year.
- 3.5 In tutor time, there is a weekly discussion point which explores issues in the news, our local community, or topics in our SMSC calendar. These discussions are led by the form tutor.

4. Religious Education

- 4.1 All schools are required to teach religious education at all key stages. Religious Education is covered through the delivery of the Religious Education element of the Fantastic Futures Curriculum and in our Power and Belief curriculum.
- 4.2 As part of the Pastoral Pledges all students at MEA have the opportunity to visit places of worship during their Religious Education study in each year.

5. Roles and responsibilities

- 5.1 The Head of School is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging collective worship after consultation with the governing body.
- 5.2 The Curriculum Leader for Fantastic Futures leads Religious Education for all year groups.
- 5.3 Leaders of Character and Culture lead tutor time for their given year group.
- 5.4 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 Head of School.

5.5 Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship or Religious Education in agreement with the Principal.

6. Dissemination

6.1 This policy is shared with all staff via the staff shared area. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the Academy website.