



The Academy at St James
Chelwood Drive
Bradford
BD15 7YD
Headteacher: Mrs Ruth Thompson

The Academy at St James

Collective Worship

Policy



Headteacher:
R.Thompson

Date: November 2024

Last reviewed on: September 2026

Next review due by: September 2027

“Aspire, Achieve, Believe”

Our School Vision

At the heart of our vision, **Aspire, Achieve, Believe**, which is rooted in Christian love, there is a commitment to building a vibrant community, where the adults and children experience a sense of belonging. Together we aim to create a culture of possibility and excellence, enabling everyone to flourish.

Our School Values

Our core Christian values—**Peace, Trust, Respect, Community, Forgiveness and Courage**—are explored and celebrated through worship, shaping the ethos and daily life of our school.



Legal and Trust Deed Compliance

This policy reflects our obligations under the **Education Reform Act 1988** and the **Education Act 1993**, which require collective worship to be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.” As a Church of England school, our worship also reflects our **Anglican foundation**, as expressed in our **trust deed**, and is shaped by the rich traditions of Anglican worship.

Church of England Principles

Our worship is:

- **Inclusive:** Accessible to all, regardless of faith background. Pupils are invited to participate, reflect, or observe with integrity.
- **Invitational:** Worship is never compulsory. Pupils and adults are invited to engage, pray or reflect in their own way.
- **Inspiring:** Worship encourages deep thinking, spiritual growth and courageous advocacy. It motivates pupils to act with compassion and justice.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at The Academy at St James will:

- Explore our vision “*Aspire, Achieve, Believe*” and how it underpins our shared values
- Reflect on moral and spiritual values such as justice, forgiveness, reconciliation and gratitude
- Offer opportunities for prayer, stillness, reflection and encounter with Christian faith
- Celebrate the diversity of Christian worship traditions, including music, liturgy, silence and story
- Enable pupils to plan, lead and evaluate worship, developing leadership and ownership

Daily Structure of Worship

Collective Worship is held **daily**, with a consistent rhythm that supports spiritual development:

- **Monday: Whole School Worship** led by senior leaders, introducing the weekly theme linked to Christian values and the liturgical calendar.
- **Tuesday: Singing Worship.** Pupils and adults engage in joyful praise through hymns and songs that reflect biblical teachings and school values. Lyrics are explored for spiritual meaning, and prayer or reflection is included.
- **Wednesday: Clergy Worship** led by clergy or visitors, often exploring biblical stories and big questions. Pupils and adults are encouraged to ask and reflect on spiritual ideas.
- **Thursday: Class-Based Worship** led by teachers or pupils, allowing for age-appropriate reflection and discussion.
- **Friday: Celebration Worship** with parents. Achievements are celebrated in the light of Christian values, and the community gathers in thanksgiving and reflection. Prayer and praise are included, and parents are invited to participate.

Each act of worship follows the pattern: **Gather – Engage – Respond – Go Forth**, allowing pupils and adults reflect, participate and carry the message into their day.

Pupil Leadership and Voice

Pupils are actively involved in:

- Planning and leading worship
- Evaluating its impact
- Developing themes and questions that reflect their experiences and spiritual journey

A **Worship Council** supports pupil leadership and ensures worship reflects the whole school community.

Planning and Themes

Worship is carefully planned to:

- Align with the school's Christian values and vision
- Reflect the seasons of the Church year
- Respond to current events and pupil interests
- Include opportunities for reflection on social justice and ethical issues

Spiritual Development

Worship provides:

- Time for stillness, prayer and contemplation

- Opportunities to explore awe and wonder
- A language of spirituality woven through the week
- Dedicated spaces for spontaneous prayer and reflection

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Worship is monitored by staff, governors and pupils
- Feedback is gathered regularly to inform planning and improvement
- Governors have a named lead for Collective Worship and receive training to support their role

Staff Development

- Worship leaders, including clergy, receive regular training
- Staff are supported with high-quality resources
- External visitors are briefed and monitored to ensure alignment with our vision and context

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This is explained in our school prospectus and website, and we aim to discuss this respectfully with families. Please contact Mrs Thompson (Headteacher) if you would like to discuss withdrawing your child from Collective Worship.

Partnerships

We work closely with our local church and diocese to enrich worship and spiritual life. Families are invited to participate and support worship at home if they wish. Special services such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas are held in church and are cherished by the community.