

The Canterbury Academy Trust

Schools for all the Talents



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The Canterbury Academy Trust

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Board of Directors of The Canterbury Academy Trust fully recognises and supports the importance of spiritual, and associated moral, social and cultural, values in the process of educating youngsters. It continues, therefore, to actively seek ways of fulfilling the statutory requirements placed upon it by The Education Reform Act 1988 within the obvious difficulties presented by the lack of expertise, timetabling and timing difficulties and the so called “conscience clause”.

The reality is that the Executive Principal has exercised the right to invoke the conscience clause. Assemblies are, therefore, mostly used to address moral issues, such as bullying, poverty etc., and to celebrate success.

In The Canterbury Primary School (Foundation stage, Key Stage 1 and 2) an act of collective worship takes place for all children on a daily basis. This may take the form of whole school assemblies, key stage assemblies or class based assemblies. These are based around a PSHE theme each term.

In The Canterbury Academy (Key Stage 3, 4 and 5) ‘Thought for the Week’ is now planned into the daily routine. Each morning during mentor time, all students are asked to reflect upon a published thought, which has religious/moral/spiritual value and therefore there is a system in place to enable a daily act of collective worship to occur. The introduction of ‘Core Learning’ is used as a key driver to discuss, reflect and raise awareness around the moral issues. Assemblies also takes place for through the Core Learning programme. These are led by staff as well as key guest speakers. House and whole assemblies take place on a termly basis; an act of collective worship should form part of that assembly. Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 Assemblies are regularly held.

Social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) education and the promotion of British values (PBV) are delivered in a cross-curricular format in all subject areas. Teaching staff are asked to explicitly plan opportunities in their lessons to teach SMSC issues and PBV.

In addition, various religious groups are invited to The Canterbury Academy Trust.

Parents have a right to exempt their child from Religious Education and Collective Worship.