

Ratified by Oasis Academy Bristol's  
Academy Council

Date: 14 July 2010

# Collective Worship Policy

Implementation: March 2010  
Review: March 2011



## **1 Introduction**

1.1 Oasis Academies exist to provide a rich and balanced educational environment which caters for the whole person - academically, vocationally, socially, morally, spiritually, physically, emotionally and environmentally.

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

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered

1.3 Oasis Ethos:

At Oasis Community Learning our ethos is an expression of our character - it is a statement of who we are and therefore the lens through which we assess all we do. Our work is motivated and inspired by the life, message and example of Christ, which shapes and guides every aspect of each of our Academies. This is foundational to our belief that all people are created and loved by God as equal and unique beings, and to our commitment to model inclusion and compassion throughout all the aspects of the life and culture of each Academy community.

The goal of each assembly or act of collective worship within Oasis Academy Bristol is to unpack, facilitate and explain the characteristic marks, key values and ethos of Oasis Community Learning.

## **2 Policy**

2.1 Oasis Academy Bristol provides regular collective worship for registered students (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents, see point 2.3). This is usually provided within a weekly assembly.

2.2 The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the collective worship after consulting with the Academy Council. Collective worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. However the precise nature depends on the family background, ages and abilities of the students. If it is inappropriate for some or all of the students to take part in Christian collective worship, the Principal may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

2.3 Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Sixth-form students are able to withdraw themselves from collective worship.

## **3 Implementation**

3.1 Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students;
- include a variety of elements at different times; and
- involve the students.

- 3.2 The Academy will adopt a monthly theme, each one based on one of the core characteristic marks of Oasis. Each theme relates to the social, spiritual, emotional and community development of individual students and the Academy at large. The themes are as follows:
- Simplicity
  - Justice
  - Compassion
  - Inclusion
  - Care for the Poor
  - Peace
  - Environment
  - Ethical Lifestyle
  - Emotional Intelligence
  - Hospitality
  - Christ-centredness
- 3.3 The content of each assembly will be pre-prepared by Oasis Community Learning centrally, ensuring consistency of delivery across all Oasis Academies as well as reducing workload on staff. It will provide a flexible and adaptable outline which can be customised by the individual Academies to meet their own needs and style.
- 3.4 Each assembly will be suitable for use by teachers and students of all faiths or none.
- 3.5 Each assembly will contain:
- A Goal - Each assembly has a main teaching point enabling the leader to determine the desired outcomes in terms of mystery, values, changed quality of awareness and challenge.
  - An Introduction - The first stimulus for each assembly will be through the use of cultural material (e.g. film or TV clip, song, excerpt from a book, game, quiz, illustration or discussion etc.).
  - A Guided Reflection - Each assembly will have a fully scripted talk/presentation as well as headings and bullets point versions for ease of use by the presenter.
  - A Response – Each assembly will conclude with a selection of responses, including songs, reading, bible reading, prayers and other reflection ideas.
- 4 Each Oasis Academy will decide the arrangements that are made for students who are withdrawn (or withdraw themselves in the Sixth Form) from Collective Worship and for those requesting separate assemblies based on other faiths.
- 5 **Equal Opportunities**  
The Academy aims to ensure that the content of collective worship is acceptable to the whole community, staff and students, and will consult local religious leaders as appropriate.
- 6 **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**  
The Oasis Community Learning Executive will review this Policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

**Date of next review:** March 2011

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Academy Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_