QRA Collective Worship Policy

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Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	Sept 2023
2	Rebranded & reviewed	July 2024
3	Adopted by QRA on transfer to HCAT	August 2025

QRA Collective Worship Policy

Intent

At Queens Road Academy, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing collective worship daily. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'

Definition of collective worship

*For the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together, and respect or worship is paid.*

*To **"take part"** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion*.

Intent

Collective worship at QRA aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with this policy. Worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, there will be influences from other religions found in the local community. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the RE lead and SLT. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme. All topics covered will be suitable to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship.

The school will consider pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative provision will be arranged for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. Alternative provision may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative provision will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.