

Religious Education & Collective Worship Policy



1. Rationale

RBA's Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others, and take responsibility for their own actions.

RBA believe that Collective Worship is a worthwhile educational activity, which adds value to academy life. Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual and moral development of pupils/students. It provides a focus for the academy community and helps to reflect the tone and ethos of the academy.

2. Policy

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act of 1988 requires that an act of daily Collective Worship be provided for all students. It will not be of any distinctive denomination. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

Aims

Fundamental to RBA's academies values and practice is the principle of enabling pupils/students to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the potential influence of life experiences, beliefs, values and faith traditions on individuals, communities, societies and culture. It also aims to enhance the pupils/students' own spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:

- Developing awareness of the fundamental questions raised by human experiences, and of how religious teachings can relate to them.
- Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions, and to their own understanding and experience; considering and explaining what might be learned from the religions they study in the light of their own beliefs and experiences.
- Reflecting on their own beliefs, values, perceptions and experiences in the light of their study of religion.
- Developing positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs that are different from their own.

The aim of Collective Worship is to provide the opportunity for pupils/students to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a religious 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

In order to develop satisfactory and meaningful Collective Worship, the following are required:

- Provision for a daily act of collective reflection for all students if they request it.
- Participation of pupils/students as fully as possible.
- A rich and varied assembly experience using a wide variety of forms of presentation.
- Opportunities to lead various assemblies.

Assemblies

Themes

A flexible approach is adopted to allow response to current academy, local, national or world events. All leaders are given the freedom to respond to appropriate stimuli although they are encouraged to maintain the 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

Music

Music can play an important part of an assembly. It may take the form of modern music, classical or a performance. Whichever is chosen creates an atmosphere for the child/staff to complement the theme of the assembly. In the lower and middle age ranges, a hymn may be sung in some assemblies.

Withdrawal from Assembly

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw a child from Collective Worship and arrangements will be made for adequate supervision. Teachers are expected to attend assembly but may exercise their freedom under the 1944 Act to withdraw from those parts of the assembly where worship is taking place.

Religious Education

Every pupil/student has a statutory entitlement to Religious Education. In RBA academies, Religious Education is taught according to the Agreed Syllabus for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton as well as incorporating the academies' own existing practice. This syllabus and the schemes taught in RBA academies are in line with The Education Act 1996. The aim of Religious Education (as delivered within the curriculum) is to:

- Enable pupils/students to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principle religions represented in Great Britain and their associated beliefs, experiences and practices.
- Enable pupils/students to acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of some of the influence of life experiences, beliefs and values and faith traditions on individuals, communities and culture.

Members of local faith communities play an important role in supporting the teaching and learning of Religious Education in RBA academies through visits to assemblies, lessons and staff training days.

Religious Education is a timetabled subject. It is open to parents to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship. This should be done in writing and addressed to the Principal of the academy. This information will be shared with the Governing Body.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all stakeholders. All staff will support this policy.

Monitoring of teaching and learning is carried out through:

- Lesson observations
- Collecting samples of pupil/students' books
- Analysis of Religious Education assessment data

4. Implementation and Review

This policy will be made known to all staff, parents/carers and governors, and published on the academies websites. Copies are also available upon request from the academy office. This policy will be reviewed two yearly or as required.

Links to other policies

Due to the diverse nature of Collective Worship and Religious Education, this policy should be read in conjunction with the RBA Drugs & Alcohol Policy and any academy specific Religious Education policies.

5. Author and Date

Drafted by S.Crowley – March 2017

6. Appendices

Any academy specific information should be added as an appendix.