

# **Assemblies and Collective Worship Policy**

**Effective Date January 2025**

**Subject to forthcoming Curriculum Review**

Approved by:	Local Governing Boards	Policy created by Mr T Millar
Reviewed in:	January 2025	Date of Adoption: January 2023
Next review due:	January 2026	

## 1 **STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE**

Assemblies at schools within Inicio Educational Trust ("the Trust") will be organised and delivered in such a way that they will act as a key learning experience for staff and pupils that directly supports the curriculum aims of the school. This includes acting as a stimulus for PSHE work alongside religious, moral and social enquiry. Assemblies will provide a framework for reinforcing the community ethos of school life, where achievement and success is celebrated and pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of pride and affiliation to the school as a whole.

As a trust, our funding agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for an act of collective worship in local authority maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70. Academies should follow paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's guidance on collective worship in schools in which every pupil must partake unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves.

Our schools are without a religious designation, and therefore must provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character as per the DfE guidance. A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community, as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.

## 2 **AIMS OF ASSEMBLIES, PSHE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN EACH SCHOOL**

The key aims of what the school wishes to pursue through its assemblies and approach to the delivery of PSHE include:

- Fostering a sense of enquiry and interest in a range of religious, moral, spiritual, social and wider life issues that link to identified key themes for each term for the assemblies.
- Fostering a sense of community and loyalty to the school underpinned by a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Providing a public platform to encourage and celebrate individual and collective successes.
- Provide an opportunity for staff and pupils to share experiences and to present their particular areas of interest to the rest of the school.
- To act as a means of encouraging collective worship and reflection on the beliefs and values of Christian and other world faiths.
- To encourage pupils to develop a sense of occasion and to understand how to behave and respond when gathered in the whole school setting.

### 2.1 **Format/Types of Assemblies held at the School**

There will be one assembly held in a typical week at the school for each year group:

- The assembly programme will be developed each year by the responsible senior leader. All assemblies will be led/facilitated by the appropriate senior leader and/or Head of Year with contribution from directed staff. Assemblies will take place once a week with a specifically created schedule that focuses on raising achievement, careers and future aspirations.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 For Pupils

- To reflect on a range of topical moral, religious and/or social issues and to use these reflections in becoming more informed citizens when making decisions and forming opinions.
- To take opportunities to become involved in the delivery of assemblies.
- To develop skills of enquiry and debate in working with their teachers on the assembly follow up and thoughts for the week.
- To become positive role models for their peers and the school showing sensitivity and learning how to respond and behave appropriately to the issues raised and methods of delivery used during the school assemblies.

#### 3.2 For Parents and Carers

- To be fully involved by supporting the school in its expectations for behaviour and attitude during assemblies.
- To discuss with their son/daughter the content of the assembly.

#### 3.3 For Teachers

- To volunteer to lead in the delivery of an assembly during the school year.
- To work with their pupils and others to devise and deliver an interactive, stimulating and thought-provoking assembly.
- To plan and prepare so that follow up work on Assembly themes builds on pupil reflection and reinforces their learning.
- To attend all assemblies, remain with their groups and to act as role models and set clear expectations for pupil behaviour.

#### 3.4 For the School Leadership Team

- Through the appropriate senior leader, to co-ordinate the assembly rota for the Academic year and to ensure that assemblies are a stimulating and thought-provoking learning experience for staff and pupils.
- To contribute to the mapping exercise for PSHE ensuring that all programmes of study positively cover the key requirements of PSHE.

#### 3.5 For the Governors

- To be fully involved in supporting the school in its delivery of assemblies and collective worship. This could be in the form of governor (employer) support and delivery.
- To annually review and agree the Assembly and Collective Worship Policy.

**PARENTS CAN WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- Parents/Carers can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship under the terms of The Education Reform Act 1988 S.9 (3). A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.
- A child over the age of 16 can also request to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship. A request must be submitted to the Headteacher of the school.
- Every request will be respected and the individual arrangements for the child, and how the child's withdrawal can be accommodated, will be discussed with the parents/carers.

**Please note that this policy is subject to the forthcoming Curriculum Review and therefore to changes.**