



United Learning
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SHOREHAM ACADEMY

Collective Worship and Withdrawal from Worship and from RE Lessons Policy

Updated March 2023

Next Review March 2025

KEY REQUIREMENTS

Academies within UL

- Will provide an opportunity for students to engage in an act of reflection/collective worship through assemblies or mentor periods from 8.30am to 9am.
- Must respect the statutory right of parents to withdraw their child from acts of worship and/or RE lessons
- **Schools within UCST:**
- must develop and communicate the school's policy with respect to withdrawal from acts of worship and/or RE
- must ensure that in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, collective worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character
- Must, in addition to the teachings of Christianity within RE lessons, engage students in knowledge and understanding about other principal world religions and faiths.

1. Recommendations and Guidance

While the Christian faith is the majority culture with historical roots in Britain, the group's schools/academies also acknowledge our multi-faith and multi-cultural society. They honour and respect the position of those of other faiths and traditions and welcome the contribution that they bring. In this way, Shoreham Academy should ensure that assemblies and RE lessons are fully inclusive.

Assemblies provide opportunities for students to gather together to underpin the ethos of the school/academy and to be 'members one of another' as a community. Assemblies are a focal point for students and staff to share beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos and to provide an opportunity for them to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives.

At Shoreham Academy, the act of worship and the teaching of RE should give students the opportunity to:

- Consider their own self-worth.
- Respect faiths other than their own.
- Develop a positive approach to life.

- Understand the importance of their own set of values and those of others.
- Respond to personal, local, national and international issues with a community spirit.
- Care about others.
- Strengthen the identity of the academy.

In helping students to gain opportunities for personal reflection, Shoreham Academy will seek to provide a place of quiet that can be accessed during the day.

The Legal Position

UL Academies are required to respect the statutory rights of parents to withdraw their child as outlined in the Education Act 1993. Academies should, however, explain clearly to parents at the point at which they join the school that participation in reflection/worship and RE lessons is strongly encouraged.

Guidance in responding to requests

In responding to requests for withdrawal from acts of reflection/collective worship and from RE, the Academy will:

- Meet with parents and the student to discuss the issues of concern.
- Some compromises may be possible whereby students are able to be included in the activity for some of the time or for some part of the activity.
- Where parents continue to request withdrawal, a suitable alternative activity for the child.
- No matter what, schools should seek to ensure that the child feels fully included within the community of the school.

Where parents make such a request that request needs to be in writing reviewed at least annually.