



Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

'Everyone Matters'

Luke 10.25-27

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1. Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of the Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Head teacher and staff will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and Ethos Statement of the school.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world.

2. Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. As we have a multi-faith intake we acknowledge and celebrate our families diversity and are sensitive and respectful of this.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework 2023, which asks 'How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually? They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher.

3. School Statement on Collective Worship

In Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. **'Everyone Matters.'** Worship brings all of the school together, celebrating it's diversity and providing a special time to explore our school values and sense of humanity to prepare our children for life beyond Kingsholm. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in Kingsholm C of Primary School and Nursery the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

"Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope"

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

4. Aims and Guiding Principles

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' to flourish spiritually.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, through inviting children to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introducing them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

5. Organisation

Worship is a daily act. The length of time or grouping may vary depending on the nature and theme of the Worship.

Our worship follows a planned 2 year cycle, with each term focusing on a different core value:

Year 1

Generosity	Resilience	Humility	Compassion	Curiosity	Integrity
Year 2					
Friendship	Courage	Forgiveness	Love	Hope	Leadership

Within the week the worship timetable allows the children and staff to experience worship in differing formats to ensure that everyone is able to access the messages that are being shared.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage Values Worship Rooted in theology	Class Based Values Worship	Picture Worship Class Based	Singing Worship Praising God through song	Praise Worship Celebrating the achievement of others

Worships are supported by regular visitors including our local Reverend.

The format of Monday/Tuesday Worships follow a 5 week program that focusses on key questions:

- Week 1 – What does the value mean?
- Week 2 – How do we show this value?
- Week 3 – Why is it important to demonstrate this value?
- Week 4 – How does this value link to our vision/British values?
- Week 5 – How can we demonstrate this value in our local community?

Our Friday worship is an opportunity to celebrate the work and achievements within our school and there is a concerted effort to ensure all are involved throughout the year and that achievements of all shapes and sizes are recognised. In this way we ensure, 'Everyone Matters'.

Our worship is deeply rooted in liturgy, beginning with the peace and concluding with a prayer. Three candles are always used to signify the Trinity, and we follow a structured format of teaching, reflection, prayer, and praise.

In addition to the above table, each class and year group will have the opportunity to partake in Worship which will celebrate achievement and class learning. The festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost will also be part of our acts of worship. Some Worship will take place at St. Catharine's Church or the Cathedral.

Sometimes issues that arise from everyday life and ethos of the school may be the focus for worship.

Parents and friends of Kingsholm C of E School are warmly invited to attend the following types of Worship: theme shares (including Harvest and Remembrance Day), Kingsholm Star, and festival celebrations.

There is a Worship Team, lead by the Worship Minister, that is made up of children from the school. The Worship Team is responsible for preparing the hall for acts of worship, organising the worship song, and reflecting with children about what they have learnt and take forward from the Worship.

Visiting speakers will be offered guidance in leading worship in accordance with our booklet 'Guidelines for those Leading Worship'

Please refer to Appendix 1 – Our Kingsholm Vision, Theological Roots and Values for further information about the values we teach at Kingsholm.

The worship display in the Oak/Acorn halls reflects the current value. A powerpoint is made for each value which includes relevant songs and quotes (many of which are spiritual). The children

have helped to shape and express what our values mean to them and our community by designing value logos.

The cloths on the worship table follow the liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church year. A hand made cross and a candle (lit during worship) are also on the table.

Our Spiritual garden provides an outdoor space where children can reflect and interact with nature, observing the now and wow moments this space brings.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcomes of monitoring visits and discussions will inform future planning and delivery of collective worship to ensure that the aims of collective worship as described in this policy are fully met.

During monitoring visits governors are encouraged to report and comment upon how our school vision and values are being 'lived out' in practice as examples of our children flourishing.

7. The Right to Withdrawal From Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Kingsholm C of E Primary School and Nursery there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. *(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*