



KENSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

KPS-021

This Policy explains our Church of England school approaches Collective Worship, based on guidance from both the DfE and the Diocese of St Albans.

Agreed by	The Full Governing Body
Signed	x  Anthony Todd (Chair of Governors)
Date	17 th March 2017
Next Review Date	October 2018



School Context

Collective worship is for all pupils, every day at Kensworth Church of England Primary School.

It normally forms a part of an assembly or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to draw the school together in prayer and develop community cohesion. Collective Worship is part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of every child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

Reflection is an important part of our assemblies as this allows children to apply what they have heard to themselves.

We believe that collective worship is a necessary spiritual, educational and social time that is fundamental to the life of the school. It provides the prime focus for the spiritual life of the school and helps to reflect the Christian ethos of the school.

Purpose of Collective Worship

During collective worship at our school, we are working towards creating experiences which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious life stance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and stimulate the possibility of a person's inward reflection which can lead them to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which they live generously with others.

A broad and flexible approach should be adopted for collective worship as with any other activity within the school.

Delivery of Collective Worship

The way in which we perform collective worship:

- provides an opportunity for all members of the school community to pause and to reflect on important issues;
- builds up a sense of group identity;
- gives pupils the experience of being still or silent;
- provides an opportunity for celebrating times of success or joy;
- provides an opportunity for meeting at times of sadness or sorrow;
- provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon core school values -such as striving to be honest and truthful, trying hard in all things respecting oneself as well as other people, striving to be fair and just;
- offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and school events.

Collective worship contributes to the spiritual development of pupils by providing them with the opportunity to:

- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things.
- experience times of still, quiet focus to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day.
- hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye.



Collective worship contributes to the moral development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Collective worship contributes to the social development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- hear music from a range of times, places and cultures
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.

Collective worship contributes to the intellectual development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- learn and to engage with their minds
- have ideas and beliefs confirmed or challenged
- reflect upon the nature of learning and education.

At our school a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. A wide variety of pupil-led worship is actively encouraged.

Parents, governors, faith community representatives and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation. **The local vicar is involved both in leading worship and in a pastoral capacity, as befits a school with a C of E foundation status.**

Foundation Governors also monitor and evaluate Collective Worship each term.

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at Kensworth School complies with legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The law states that "*Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief*".

However, it is fundamental that collective worship be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all pupils at the school. Therefore "an act of worship which is "broadly Christian" need not contain Christian material only" (DfEE 34).

All major world faiths hold various doctrines and theology in common. Examples are a belief in a God or gods; the need for justice, love, peace, tolerance, co-operation and goodness; the rejection of evil, greed, selfishness, war and prejudice; the obligation to alleviate poverty through charity; the stewardship of creation through care for the environment and so on. Such a wide-ranging list clearly demonstrates the scope which is available to the person leading collective worship. Thus, if



a broad and flexible approach is adopted, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but will develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Collective Worship Themes

Assembly themes are chosen to give opportunities for thinking about values important to the school community for reflecting on the deeper aspects of life, for focusing on local and national events and for celebrating special occasions.

As part of the cycle of festivals and seasons reflected in the assembly themes, the major Christian festivals are celebrated with some festivals from other world faiths e.g. Diwali, Hanukkah, Eid and Chinese New Year.

In relation to how our collective worship is reflected in our Church of England school and a pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development our Collective Worship is founded on

- **Spiritual:** discovery of God the Creator, of an 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment
- **Moral:** teachings of Jesus, moral codes, a foundation stone for pupils to make decisions and build their lives
- **Social:** an understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community
- **Cultural:** an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assemblies are not the same thing, but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a part of the assembly or its entirety.

Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of these areas in every child. It is also a time when the individual child can be celebrated for his/her social and academic achievements and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although it is usually in practice more than that.

It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

At our school every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding. It should contribute to the education (in its broadest sense) of all pupils and there needs to be a sense of occasion. Sometimes music is also played at the beginning and end of assembly.



Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship

The main aim of collective worship at our school is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none.

It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks down the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to remove their child without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided.

Monitoring and Review

It is expected that this policy will be reviewed at least every two years as part of the Governing Body's policy review process.