Kingsley St John’s CE Aided Primary School

**Collective Worship Policy 2024**

*‘Believe in the light, whilst you have the light,*

*So that you may become Children of Light.’* John 12;36

 **Introduction**

This policy has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from the teacher coordinating collective worship – C Byrne.

At Kingsley St John’s CE Aided Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to reflect on our choices, relationships and behaviours, talk with God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is invitational, inclusive, inspiring; ensuring we welcome and promote the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school.

Worship helps us to:

* praise and give thanks to God
* reflect on the meaning and purpose of Christian life
* focus on our Christian Values and Christian character
* develop meditation and thought through stillness and reflection
* learn and reflect on the life of Jesus and of the people of the Bible
* explore religious ideas and the big questions of life
* celebrate festivals and national events
* learn from the experiences of others
* develop community spiritual awareness, promote a common ethos, shared values and reinforce positive attitudes and tolerance of others
* come together to worship as a school family
* develop our motivation and enthusiasm to make the world around us better and help those in need.

Our wooden cross and beautiful word on wood is a reminder of our strong Christian association. A candle is used as a point of focus in assembly, alongside music and images. We light the candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world, and turn it our to remind us that we are the light of the world.

Links between St John’s Church, Kingsley Methodist Church and our school are long established; Services take place in church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter, for the pupils leaving school in July as well as midweek worship every third week. These services bring parents and children together with the community. Church representatives are welcomed to collective worship in school every week.

**OUR VISION -**   **‘Believe in the light, whilst you have the light, so that you may become children of light ’** *(John12:36)*

With Christian values at our core, we nurture a love of learning and inspire everyone to let be children of light and glorify their good deeds. Our school community centres on the needs of our children who are encouraged to be the best they can be in all aspects of school life and to embrace opportunities as their journey continues.

**Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

**Organisation**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday School-led worship focusing on our Christian Value for the half term.

Tuesday Roundabout worship – teachers move to other classes with a focus on global, British values, Picture News or Rights Respecting Articles.

Wednesday Church worship focused around a key theme for the half term

Thursday Joyful Praise with prayer

Friday Celebration worship – all families invited.

Each class leads a worship once during the school year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Planning for worship is based first of all on the Christian Calendar, and in particular on the advice from the Diocese. Particular events are programmed for each term and a thematic approach is used. A wide range of resources is available for the preparation of themes and a variety of formats is used. Each act of worship includes a song, a story/poem/factual account/discussion with the children and a prayer. Music can be used to introduce and end the worship.

Children are encouraged and invited to take an active part in all **collective worship** eg: lighting the candle, sharing a reflection, leading the prayers, selecting music, leading responses, delivering information, important messages to other pupils, talking about life experiences, reading aloud, asking and responding to questions raised.

Christian Values

Our School Christian values form the basis of our Collective Worship plan.

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| **Autumn 1**Christian values**Friendship**Thankfulness**Koinonia**Faith daysHarvest + Giving – Sept/Oct Rosh Hashanah – 25-27 OctSharad Navaratri – 26 Sept- 4 OctYom Kippur – 5 OctSukkot – 10-16 Oct**British Values: Tolerance** **RE focus: Good News, God, Kingdom of God** | **Spring 1**Christian values**Service**Humility**Trust**Faith daysEpiphany – 6 JanWorld Religions Day – 15 JanChinese New Year – 22 JanCandlemas – 2 FebTu Bishvat – 5 FebStart of lent/ Ash Wednesday – 22 Feb**British Values: Democracy****RE focus: Christian Community** | **Summer 1**Christian values**Endurance**CreationFaith daysPalm Sunday – 2 AprHoly Week – 2-8 AprEaster Sunday – 9 Apr Eid Al Fitr – 21-22 AprSt George’s Day – 23 AprilAscension – 18 May Pentecost – 28 MayShauvot – 25-27 May**British Values: Individual Liberty****RE focus: Discipleship, God, Judaism/Hinduism**  |
| **Autumn 2**Christian values**Hope, Reverence**Peace Faith daysAll Saint day – 1 Nov All souls – 2 NovDiwali – 24 OctRemembrance Day – 11 Nov; Thanksgiving – 24 NovInterfaith week 13-20 NovBirth of Guru Nanak – 19 Nov St Andrew Day – 30 NovHanukkah – 18-26 DecAdvent – from 27 Nov, Christmas Day 25 Dec**British Values: Mutual Respect****RE focus: Incarnation, Islam (World Faith)** | **Spring 2**Christian values**Forgiveness, Compassion**Faith daysSt-David’s Day – 1 MarchSt Patrick’s Day – 17 MarchHoli – 8 March Mothering Sunday – 19 March Ramadan – 22 Mar-21 AprChaitra Navarati – 22-31 MarchEASTER during spring break**British Values: Being British, Staying British****Future of Britain****RE focus: Forgiveness, Resurrection** | **Summer 2**Christian valuesJustice**Wisdom**Faith days Trinity Sunday – 4 JuneRaksha Bandham – 30 Aug**British Values: Rule of Law****RE focus: Discipleship, Christian Community** |

**Roundabout Worship**

Every Tuesday, worship takes place in classrooms and is led by teachers and pupils. Resources such as Rights Respecting School, Picture News are utilised to enrich pupils' sense of belonging and spirituality and to allow them to explore their relationship with God. The resources encourage pupils to look inwards to understand themselves better and to recognise the value each and every one of us has, and outwards to the wider world and God's creation. Picture News in particular supports our pupils to learn about the world and learn from the world through topical stories and themes, encouraging them to become agents of change.

**Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord’s Prayer., school prayer, end of the day prayer and bespoke ‘teaspoon’ prayer They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by in each class and a prayer shared at the end of the school day,

‘Keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears, may angels guard us whilst we sleep, until morning light appear. Amen’

The school has a Prayer spaces throughout the school. Children are encouraged to say a short prayers and clip the leaves onto the tree. Each classroom has an area for reflection which children are encouraged to use when they want to pray or reflect. These areas include postcards for pupils to recognise each other as children of light.

**Other Faiths**

Worship reflects Christian beliefs and values, as well as respecting other faith and culture, showing respect, tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils’ beliefs. Welcoming those of Christian faith, respecting those of other faiths and challenging those of no faith.

**Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

*• Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons and collective worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.*

Reviewed: February 2024