



Kingsley St John's Church of England Aided Primary School

Collective Worship Policy February 2021

Introduction

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

The right of withdrawal.

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus where it states '*Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from assembly if they wish to do so.*' If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Aims and Objectives

At Kingsley St John's CE Aided Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship (*as detailed in the Diocesan guideline*) are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.

- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

(National Society Web site, 2007)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

Review

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *three* years. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Worship timetable

Monday	Collective Worship School led
Tuesday	Joyful Praise
Wednesday	Collective Worship Church led
Thursday	Roundabout Worship
Friday	Celebration Worship

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Kingsley St John's the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator, Jean Cowell. She plans themes linked to Christian Values. Church led collective worship is linked to the PSHCE SEAL themes.

Conclusion

At Kingsley CE Aided Primary School collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements, yet we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Policy last reviewed February 2021

Next review date February 2024