



**KIDMORE END
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY**

Collective Worship Policy

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Chair of Governors: Sarah Rodda

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Introduction

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of Kidmore End School. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is 'quality time' and represents something special and separate from ordinary school routine.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society. All maintained schools must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils. Worship here is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and is therefore Christian, in character in keeping with the traditions of our local parish, St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship. Collective Worship also reflects our school vision statement:

Kidmore End School is an inclusive learning community where everyone can realise their unique potential as an independent learner.

Our school is a place where:

- We ask questions and learn from our mistakes
- We are resourceful, responsible and respectful
- We share our gifts and contribute to our community
- Everyone is valued and recognised as a child of God

The Purpose of Collective Worship

- To reflect on God's magnificence, and praise and worship him
- To give thanks for his blessings
- To ask for his help in our lives and work

We do this by

- Meeting to acknowledge and reflect on God, the world we inhabit and the mystery and wonder of our surroundings
- Celebrating occasions and achievements and the shared values of the community
- Learning how symbolism is used in Christianity and other world religions
- Reflecting on what being a Christian means to us in terms of behaviour, values and religious practice;
- Learning more about our faith through Bible stories and stories with a moral
- Thinking about difficult questions and issues, and the Christian response to them.
- Sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge
- Experiencing silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer

Our Values

Through the school year, we reflect on six core values, which have been agreed by our school community. These values are thankfulness, hope, truthfulness, courage, friendship and responsibility. We use the 'Values for Life' resource as a basis for ensuring that our values are linked to biblical stories, particularly those from the life of Jesus, but also draw on a wide range of materials to ensure contemporary and real-life examples of our values in action, which are reflective of the diversity of our society.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are:

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature
3. Collective worship is educational

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the Academy and the wider community.

Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. The School and Academy Trust thus welcomes students and staff of all faiths and of none.

Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

Educational

Our acts of collective worship will aim to provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners’ understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other main school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils;

The Format of Collective Worship

Collective worship may be experienced as a whole school, key stage or class. Here is the current format of our week of worship.

Day	Content	Led by
Monday	Celebration Assembly Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving. Hymn or song	HT

Tuesday	Separate Key Stage Assemblies. Prayer, Hymn or song	Class teachers
Wednesday	Whole school values assembly Prayer, Hymn or song	HT
Thursday	Prayers and singing assembly	Mrs Thomas
Friday	Whole school values assembly Prayer, Hymn or song	Revd James Stickings

Prayer

Prayers are said at every assembly and children are invited to join in. Children are invited to learn the words of the Lord's Prayer and are taught how to respond to the blessing. They say Grace before lunch and often contribute ideas for prayers in our acts of worship.

Church Services

We value our link with St John the Baptist Church, and hold services there at Easter, Harvest Festival, Christmas and at the end of the summer term. The services are usually led by the pupils, but the Rector leads our prayers. We also have termly school assemblies in church and pupils take part in village services such as Remembrance Sunday and Christingle.

Withdrawal

The 1988 Education Act states that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Any parent wishing to act upon this withdrawal must make a written application to the Head Teacher. Teachers also have the right of withdrawal (Circular 1/94)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness, with reference to guidance from both the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust and the Diocese of Oxford. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Appendix 1 – Oxford Diocesan Schools’ Trust Guidelines on Implementation of Collective Worship

Our assemblies are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of the Academy community, and provide occasions when pupils meet together in larger, more formal settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Some school staff will have a key role in the delivery of Assemblies and collective worship in the Academy. Both the Rector and worship coordinator will have a key role in providing a lead in this area, ensuring that Acts of Collective Worship in the school are of high quality, well-coordinated and delivered effectively, in line with these overall policy guidelines.

Assemblies are also an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. Within all assemblies students are recognised for their personal achievement, both school-based and in the community, and groups of pupils are also commended for their corporate achievements. Pupils are recognised in assemblies for effort, achievement and contribution to the school or local community.

Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in planning, preparing, presenting and responding to assemblies, thereby giving them a platform for positively contributing to the ethos of the school and for providing role models for other pupils. The involvement of pupils in assemblies, irrespective of race, gender, age or ability, is an effective vehicle for developing self-confidence and encouraging co-operation, respect and tolerance amongst all pupils.

1. Collective worship will:
 - have a clear message
 - be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
 - include a variety of elements at different times
 - involve the students
 - have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
 - provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input
2. In achieving a meaningful act of worship it is important to distinguish between worship and ritual. Rituals are a means of enabling worship and include:
 - stories and sacred/secular readings
 - songs, hymns and music
 - dance and drama
 - prayer, meditations and creative silence
 - artefacts and natural materials
 - students’ contributions

The school will be aware of the timing of religious festivals and any specific requirements relating to them.

3. It can be helpful to consider three aspects:
 - Experiences that have the character of pre-worship e.g. joy
 - The essence of worship – attending to the divine
 - Consequences of worship – e.g. moral and ethical values renewed and directed e.g. courage.

As part of our collective worship students will have the opportunity to be quiet and reflect on what has been shared. Students and/or adults will lead the prayer session.

4. It is not appropriate to
 - make students repeat a prayer if they do not wish
 - join their hands if they do not wish
 - say ‘Amen’ if they do not wish
 - always have prayers: intersperse Collective Worship with reflection, silence or discussion
5. We expect students to
 - be respectful
 - act in an appropriate manner
 - have the daily opportunity for a sense of togetherness which engenders a sense of belonging
 - have an understanding that worship is not done for students but is an experience for all who attend
6. We expect staff to
 - lead where applicable in the agreed manner, including class assemblies
 - respond to collective worship in an appropriate manner
 - develop links with faith groups and at times, offer them the opportunity to lead assemblies and collective worship in the agreed format for our school