



## **Collective Worship Policy**

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## **Introduction**

Collective worship is for all pupils and staff at Kineton CE (VA) Primary School. It normally forms part of an assembly or is its entirety. It has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral and social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

Collective worship is a time to explore, extend understanding, heighten sensitivity and engender a sense of belonging. It is a time for thinking about relationships with God and others. It also nurtures values and responsibilities both within school and the wider community. All staff and children should develop an awareness of the beauty of the environment, the awe and wonder of creation, the importance of conservation and the role God requires us to play in it.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of Collective Worship in Kineton CE (VA) Primary School is:

- To affirm our identity as a Church of England Voluntary Aided School
- To celebrate the major Christian festivals
- To offer opportunities for children to develop the spiritual dimension of their lives and grow in their relationship with God
- To teach the value of silence, reflection and to introduce children to the practice of prayer
- To celebrate our community life
- To explore social, moral and ethical issues
- To acknowledge and celebrate diversity in race and culture in order to foster the virtue of fair-mindedness, and a willingness to consider the views and values of other people without judgement
- To reflect on and think about the everyday realities of living and believing our school values.

## **Underlying Principles**

### **Acts of collective worship**

- Will be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England
- Will seek to be inclusive, encouraging a sense of unity and identity
- Whilst remaining true to the school's Christian identity, will also seek to be sensitive to those children whose traditions lie within other faiths or whose families have no overt faith commitment
- Will, on specific occasions, be held in St Peter's Church when appropriate

## **Collective Worship at Kineton Primary School is based on core beliefs that are common to all Christians:**

### **Belief in God as Creator**

Worship should encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world and its entire people.

### **Belief in Jesus**

The life of Jesus, especially his birth, death and resurrection, lies at the heart of a Christian understanding of God and his love. Worship should focus on major Christian festivals. Stories from the gospels provide opportunities for insight into spiritual and moral teaching.

### **Belief in the Holy Spirit**

The power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians is proof of God's life. In worship this may be approached through stories of individual people and organisations that have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, either internationally, nationally or locally.

### **The Trinity**

God has revealed himself to humanity in three different ways and the idea of God as trinity (One God, but three personas) is represented by 3 candles. The trinity is also represented by a cross (Jesus), a globe (God) and a dove (the Holy Spirit). These are all on display on the worship table and may be referred to at the beginning of a collective act of worship,

God the father – revealed in the beauty of creation

God the Son – Jesus Christ

God the Holy Spirit – God's presence in the World

### **The Bible**

The Bible has unique authority as God's word for Christians, and its use is central in Christian worship and life.

### **Participation**

A daily act of worship for all pupils is a legal requirement of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Acts of worship at Kineton Primary School will be broadly of Christian character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief, and having regard for the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils.

Worship is an important feature of the life of the school and this is made clear to parents who seek a place for their child/ren. We seek to include all staff and children as far as possible in terms of attendance at, participation in and leadership of school worship. Our aim is that all pupils in attendance shall on each school day attend an act of collective worship.

Collective worship may take place as a whole school or class gathering. Prayers are said in each classroom at lunchtimes and at the end of each school day.

If parents wish to withdraw their child/ren from acts of collective worship, discussion takes place with the class teacher and headteacher in order to make suitable alternative arrangements.

Parents are generally invited to any special assemblies, for example weekly merit assemblies and class led worship assemblies.

## **Content**

Themes and content for whole school collective worship are generally planned on a termly basis. These reflect Christian festivals, other religious festivals, school values, British values or other issues deemed pertinent to the school community to raise awareness of cultural diversity.

Class teachers each plan their own respective acts of collective worship. These may follow whole school themes, or have particular relevance at that point in time. With support from teachers, each class will plan and lead whole school worship twice each academic year.

Our weekly reward assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Christmas, Harvest and Easter have a dominant influence on collective worship at their respective times of year. The season of Advent is marked as a preparation for the Christmas season, whilst Christingle services are held in the parish church every other year.

## **Planning**

### **Format**

Collective worship is a special time each day when we come together and acknowledge God. It should be a different approach and atmosphere from other times of the day. This will include lighting three candles and saying 'We light this candle in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit', seating arrangements, visual aids and visual focus on the worship table.

Class assemblies, led by the children, provide a time for children to express themselves positively through dance, music, drama, poetry and creative art, and to share with others the work they have been involved with and which has meaning for them. These assemblies develop a child's awareness of God and their ability to be creative and to respond to the creativity of God and others.

### **Reflection**

There should be a time of reflection and quiet during a collective act of worship. There will be opportunities for children to reflect on their assemblies orally with the teacher, or through a class reflective record.

### **Prayer**

Prayers are an important part of collective worship and help to unite a community. There is a school prayer which helps to reflect upon the ethos of the school. All classes will say a prayer before lunch and at the end of the day. These prayers will be agreed by staff.

## **Music**

We consider music to be a vital part of collective worship. As such it should be appropriate to the themes being covered, be engaging and reflect the rich tradition of Christian experience, historical, contemporary and world-wide.

## **Liturgy**

The Church of England is a liturgical church and so as a school we seek to make use of the strengths of liturgical worship where appropriate in our assemblies. This might include the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the use of responsorial prayers as well as other well-known prayers from the past. Appropriate liturgical colours will be used as a background on the worship table.

## **Leadership**

Whole school assemblies are usually led by the head teacher, or a member of the school's leadership team, class teachers, a member of the local clergy or a visiting speaker. Each class also leads whole school assemblies twice in the school year.

## **Monitoring and review**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is a role undertaken by the headteacher in line with the monitoring of curriculum subjects and school development plan priorities. It is also undertaken by our Foundation Governors and is part of their annual monitoring cycle. The governors concerned liaise with the headteacher before reporting to the Full Governing Body.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.