

# POLICY

## Collective Worship

Reviewed Approved by the Governing Body	January 2025
Policy Owner	Lisa Boon

## **The King's Church of England Academy**

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our vision is to enable every student to discover their God-given academic and personal potential so that they can make a positive impact in the world. We seek to be a community built on knowing God's truth and love, delivering learning experiences that last a lifetime. We are governed by our distinctively Christian values and, therefore, we are wholly inclusive of students with any faith and no faith.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to 'discover life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

## **Policy Statement**

In The King's Church of England Academy worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well-planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of the Bible - as fulfilled in the person of Jesus, and his focus on the coming of the Kingdom of God (Luke 24:27, Mark 1:15).

For Christians, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils. At The King's Church of England Academy collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, and experience of the liturgical, musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

## **Church of England Guidance**

Collective worship policy at The King's Church of England Academy draws on guidance from the Church of England<sup>1</sup>. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and Diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

## **Fulfilling the Legal Requirements**

There is a daily act of collective worship at The King's Church of England Academy. This takes place at the start of the school day. Collective worship in The King's Church of England Academy is in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in The King's Church of England Academy is distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The trustees/governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

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## **The right of withdrawal**

In The King's Church of England Academy there are a number of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they are hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On rare occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Principal to discuss their concerns and requirements. This meeting will establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and Principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

## **Guiding Principles**

Collective worship in The King's Church of England Academy aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.

- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

### **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and RSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

### **How Collective worship is organised**

#### **Leadership**

- Daily form worship is conducted in form and led by the form tutor and the students themselves.
- Weekly collective worship is led by a variety of stakeholders throughout the course of the year, including the senior leadership team, staff, students, guest speakers, local clergy and other Anglican visitors.
- Collective Worship has a consistent format so that students know they are undertaking Worship.

#### **Planning**

- Daily form worship is planned by the Christian Distinctiveness Co-ordinator. Weekly Collective worship is planned the nominated person to lead the weeks worship.
- The academy chaplain and the Christian Distinctiveness Co-ordinator supports staff and students with the delivery of worship as needed.
- Worship reflects the churches liturgical calendar so that Christian festivals are celebrated.
- The Academy's Christian values are at the heart of worship, with the core values addressed in Collective worship and form worship
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- A range and variety of materials are used including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips.
- How the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored
- How spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

#### **Organisation**

- Collective Worship is delivered to each year group separately in the main school hall in their form groups.
- Collective Worship is delivered at the start of the day and last for approximately 15 minutes.

- The worship space has a focus table with a candle, cross and a bible. There is a large free-standing cross at the front of the hall.
- The tablecloth reflects the liturgical colours of the Church of England calendar.
- Music or a video is generally played on entry into the hall.

### **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

- Staff are provided with a varied diet of calendared weekly CPD, including teaching and learning, safeguarding, support with RSHE, behaviour support and support with worship. CPD is provided from both internal and external sources.
- ECT's have their own programme of CPD alongside the whole school CPD to develop aspects of their development as a teacher.
- Inset days are provided to support both whole school and Trust wide CPD.
- Staff are invited to join a range of NPQ's to develop leadership within the school.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

- Worship is reviewed through line manager meetings.
- Staff and student voice are considered when developing worship.
- Link governors regularly check and challenge the worship provision
- Feedback has demonstrated that worship has evolved in accordance with stakeholder voice.

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review:

Principal signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: