



Collective Worship Policy

A local school policy for
Polehampton CE Junior, Infant and Nursery School



Version control summary and overview details

Local school policy - This is a policy which the Board of Trustees has delegated to the Local Governing Body to agree on and approve.. - LGBs have minuted that they have approved this policy.	
Version control Aut.26 v1 Reviewed in line with latest syllabus and thoughts on Religion and World Views promotion.	
Reviewed by (School Lead)	Phil Sherwood, Executive Headteacher
Approved by LGB:	Polehampton LGB
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TKAT vision

We are a family of distinctive schools at the heart of the diverse communities we serve. In line with our Christian ethos, we aspire to excellent learning and pastoral care for pupils and staff and are committed to being open and welcoming to all.

School vision

At Polehampton CE Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools, our vision is "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus reminded us in Matthew's gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world. Supported by our school values of gratitude, friendship, perseverance, forgiveness, honesty and compassion, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. We follow our Christian values to enable everyone in our school community to let their light shine.

Key areas of note

Please note the following, which will be applicable throughout the policy:

- Any reference to 'everyone' to staff, trustees, local governors and pupils.
- Any reference to 'we' should be read as The Keys Academy Trust.
- Any reference to 'parents' should be read as 'parents, carers and guardians'.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Collective Worship is a central expression of our Christian vision and values and is the heartbeat of our school community. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Church of England, it provides a daily opportunity for pupils, staff and the wider school community to gather together in worship, reflection and celebration.
- 1.2 Collective Worship is planned to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It welcomes people of all faiths and worldviews, offering opportunities to explore faith, spirituality and the Christian story without compulsion. It encourages everyone to reflect on life's big questions, develop spiritually, celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and strengthen the sense of belonging within our school community.
- 1.3 Through Collective Worship, we seek to enable every member of our community to flourish and to "live life in all its fullness" (John 10:10), while developing dignity, respect, compassion and a commitment to living well together.

2. Aims

- 2.1 Through Collective Worship, we aim to achieve the following:
 - a) Place the school's Christian vision and values at the centre of school life and inspire everyone to live them out in their daily actions.
 - b) Provide meaningful opportunities for prayer, stillness, reflection and spiritual growth, recognising that participation is always invitational and never compulsory.
 - c) Help pupils and adults encounter the teachings of Jesus, the Bible and the Christian understanding of God, while developing an appreciation of the relevance of faith in today's world.
 - d) Enable pupils to explore life's big questions, reflect on their own beliefs and values, and develop their own spiritual journey.
 - e) Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, encouraging pupils to become compassionate, respectful and responsible citizens.
 - f) Foster a strong sense of belonging, community and shared identity through gathering together in worship and celebration.
 - g) Celebrate individual achievements, collective successes and significant moments within the life of the school and wider community.
 - h) Develop respect, understanding and appreciation for people of all faiths, beliefs and worldviews, including those with no faith.
 - i) Encourage stewardship, service, kindness, courage, curiosity and respect, enabling pupils to flourish as individuals and contribute positively to society.
 - j) Inspire awe, wonder, hope and gratitude through engaging and meaningful acts of worship.
 - k) Enable pupils to participate in planning, leading and evaluating Collective Worship, helping to shape and continually improve its quality.

3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all members of the school community and sets out the principles, expectations and organisation of Collective Worship within the school.
- 3.2 Collective Worship will ensure the following
 - a) Reflect the school's Christian foundation and the traditions of the Church of England.

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- b) Be planned and delivered in accordance with Church of England guidance, statutory requirements and SIAMS expectations.
- c) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, recognising and respecting the diversity of faiths, beliefs and worldviews represented within the school community.
- d) Include opportunities for worship through prayer, music, scripture, storytelling, silence, reflection and creative expression.
- e) Explore the Christian faith, the Church's liturgical year and major Christian festivals, while acknowledging and respecting significant festivals and traditions from other faiths represented within the school community.
- f) Provide opportunities for pupils, staff, clergy, governors and visitors to contribute appropriately to Collective Worship.
- g) Include opportunities for worship both within school and, where appropriate, through visits to local churches and other places of worship.
- h) Support pupils' spiritual development alongside their moral, social, emotional and personal development, complementing the wider curriculum and the school's Christian vision.

4. Implementation

- 4.1 Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders – including staff, pupils, clergy and external visitors – in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping (e.g. whole school, key stage or class). Our school plans systematically and cohesively using appropriate resources and approaches in line with the schools' vision and values. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long- and short-term planning of worship and this enables continuity.
- 4.2 We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative worship, including prayer partners, playing games, singing, prayer, storytelling, reflection, symbolism, demonstrations, drama and art.
- 4.3 Our worship consists of four elements:
 - 4.3.1 Gather
 - We welcome the community to this act of worship. We are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God.
 - This may involve music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
 - 4.3.2 Engage
 - We engage with the big things and the little things in life
 - We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible
 - We listen to God's message and how consider how it might apply to our lives.
 - We share, for example, a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message.
 - 4.3.3 Respond
 - We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection.
 - We are given the invitation to worship God in different ways.
 - Pupils may, for example, discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing.

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- 4.3.4 Send
- We share, for example, the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day, learning and/or behaviour.
 - We are sent out to love and serve one another, and to make a difference in the world, and we are all sent out with God's blessing.
 - We close with liturgy, a final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.
- 4.4 Pupils regularly lead prayers or parts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective appropriate staff during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of one another.
- 4.5 A typical week's Collective Worship is as follows in both schools:
- Monday – led by teachers
 - Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday
 - Singing and hymn practice
 - Led by teachers
 - Led by pupils
 - Led by church team
 - Class assembly
 - Friday – celebration assembly

One of our school values is covered each half term. This is then taken in the experience of everyday school life.

5. Impact of worship on our children

- 5.1 Daily acts of collective worship, in whatever form they take, have a positive impact on us as a community.
- 5.2 Some of these benefits are as follows:
- a) Children will make better life choices.
 - b) Pupils develop their own faith, spirituality or sense of self.
 - c) Children are mindful of themselves and others.
 - d) Pupils show respect and tolerance for all faiths and beliefs, including those with no faith.
 - e) Confidence to ask and challenge ideas.
 - f) Being grateful and enjoying life in all its fullness.

6. Reviewing worship, including self-evaluation

- 6.1 The governing body will keep up to date with the latest guidance from the Church of England and continually work with school staff, governors, clergy and the Diocese of Oxford to ensure the highest quality worship is offered to children in the school. This may include attending Diocesan training, visiting the school to monitor/evaluate the effectiveness of worship and engaging with the school community.
- 6.2 Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community against our school vision and values. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome ideas or suggestions from the school community. Outcomes of evaluations are shared amongst staff and discussed at governing body meetings. Continual review plays an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is

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independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Oxford (SIAMS).

- 6.3 The Local Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored. The LGB also ensures that the IQ statements are monitored for evidence and impact within LGB meetings and governor in-school monitoring.

7. Parental withdrawal

- 7.1 Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents, and parents are invited to contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

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