



Collective Worship Policy

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Knowle CE Primary Academy

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Collective Worship Policy for Knowle CE Primary Academy

Introduction

The purpose of this Collective Worship policy is to clarify the academy's perception of Collective Worship so that members of the school community have a common understanding of its aims.

It has been drawn up by the collective worship co-ordinator in consultation with the Principal, teaching and learning staff, Governors and the Knowle Parish Church representative.

Academy Aims Statement: WE WORK, WE PLAY, WE CARE, WE PRAY

<p>Be Healthy</p> <p>We aim to empower each child to become physically, mentally and emotionally healthy in order that they can learn effectively and choose a healthy lifestyle.</p>	<p>Embrace Christian Values</p> <p>We aim to empower each child to develop socially, morally, ethically and spiritually by experiencing and sharing in our Christian beliefs and values</p>	<p>Stay Safe</p> <p>We aim to develop and sustain a happy and secure environment in which children become self-confident, articulate, emotionally aware, socially adept, literate and numerate in order to make the right life choices and, therefore, be inherently safer.</p>
<p>Make a Positive Contribution</p> <p>We aim to empower children to actively engage in the planning of their learning experiences, and have the confidence to express themselves in discussion and in writing in order that they will choose to engage positively in social and community roles, becoming global citizens.</p>	<p>Enjoy and Achieve</p> <p>We aim to empower each child to experience the joy of learning and to achieve success, developing their capacity to learn independently and interdependently in order that they choose to be engaged in lifelong learning.</p>	<p>Achieve Economic Well-being</p> <p>We aim to empower each child to develop a positive attitude, become self-motivated, and develop key academic and social skills, which enable them to think creatively and choose to impact on, influence and shape the world they live in.</p>

At Knowle CE Primary Academy we have adopted the 'Fruit of the Spirit' (as found in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians) as the basis of our core Christian Values which underpin the social, moral, ethical and spiritual development of our pupils.

LOVE

Caring for one another unconditionally.

JOY

Finding joy, not in earthly things, or in triumphing over someone else, but rather from God.

PEACE

Knowing that we are safe in God's hands no matter what may happen.

PATIENCE

Acting with grace, tolerance and forgiveness.

KINDNESS

Showing people that they matter and that they have value by giving time, listening, showing empathy and concern.

GOODNESS

Helping others and standing up for others who cannot stand up for themselves.

FAITHFULNESS

Being trustworthy and reliable and trusting in God.

GENTLENESS

Being considerate and understanding how powerful we are and the damage we can do if that power is not under control.

SELF-CONTROL

Holding ourselves in check even in difficult situations.

The Legal Position of Collective Worship

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that collective worship must be *"wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character."* That *"Acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes."* And that: *"Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of worship even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief"*.

Our school's heritage is that of a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. Therefore in addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that:

"the Academy Trust shall comply with the requirements of section 70(1) of, and schedule 20 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as if the Academy

were a foundation school or voluntary controlled school with a religious character, and as if references to 'the required collective worship' were references to collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of the specified religion or religious denomination of the Academy" in our case the Church of England.

And that Collective Worship must be inspected and that:

"Such inspection shall be conducted by a person chosen by the Academy Trust and the Academy shall secure that such inspection shall comply with the requirements set out in any statutory provision and regulations as if the Academy were a foundation or voluntary controlled school which has been designated under section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Acts 1998 as having a religious character."

Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils other than nursery class pupils, where there is no legal requirement to do so. However nursery class pupils will say a prayer together daily and attend some EYFS/KS1 acts of Collective Worship throughout the year. Members of staff usually attend acts of collective worship for their own key stage.

Each pupil should be able to respond individually and differently to each act of worship.

The Rationale for Collective Worship

For Knowle CE Primary Academy, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, we affirm the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the academy, and which represent the faith stance of some staff and pupils. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our academy it is recognised that in our community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Collective Worship promotes Spiritual Development offering a space to all:

- to think about God
- to make a response to God
- to explore a relationship with God
- to enjoy being in the presence of God
- to contemplate the awesomeness of God
- to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God
- to listen to God
- to get a sense of things unseen
- to explore personal belief
- to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together
- to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- to wonder
- to gain inspiration
- to receive a challenge to live differently
- to rejoice in being unique and precious

Collective Worship promotes Educational Development offering a space to all:

- to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism
- to learn about the faith of the local church community
- to participate in marking important features of the church calendar
- to explore the core Christian Values of the academy
- to use stillness and quietness
- to have a quiet moment in a busy day
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum
- to develop empathy towards the lifestyles, beliefs and cultures of others

Collective Worship promotes Moral Development by providing a space to develop:

- a set of moral principles
- the ability to tell right from wrong
- the desire to tell the truth and keep promises
- an insight into the moral code of Christianity
- appreciation of the customs and beliefs of others
- a respect for the rights and property of others
- the desire to help those less fortunate and those who are weaker
- self-discipline and personal responsibility for one's actions
- the will to behave morally as a point of principle

Collective Worship is Inclusive:

- whatever age, aptitude or background
- where the integrity of each is respected
- enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs

- sharing worship on occasion with parents, *Governors* and members of the local community

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily in Reception/KS1 and KS2.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception/ KS1	Teacher led Collective Worship and Choral Worship	Teacher Led Collective Worship (2.45pm)	Church Led Collective Worship	Classroom Collective Worship	Celebration Assembly/ Prayer
KS2	Classroom Collective Worship	Teacher led Collective Worship and Choral Worship	Teacher Led Collective Worship	Church Led Collective Worship	Celebration Assembly/ Prayer (2.15pm)

Throughout the year there are opportunities for the Collective Worship to take place in Knowle Parish Church. We currently have the following special services:

- Harvest Festival (Year 4 - Lead)
- Nativity (Year 1 - Lead)
- Christmas Service (Key Stage 2 and Church Congregation)
- Easter Service (Year 5 - Lead)
- Moving-on Service (Year 6 - Lead)

These Church Services also provide opportunities for parents and invited members of the wider community to participate in our acts of Collective Worship.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned for on a termly basis by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in association with the Children's Minister at Knowle Parish Church. There is an over-riding termly theme which relates to the Church Calendar and within this we pay attention to the major festivals of the different faiths and topical issues. This theme is then broken down into weekly topics to allow for deeper reflection and exploration.

Each term the planning and weekly prayers are circulated to teaching staff and members of Knowle Parish Church with responsibility for leading Collective Worship during that term.

Copies of the Collective Worship termly planning and the 3 Year Cycle (Long Term Plan) can be found in: W/Collective Worship/New Planning.

The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading Collective Worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. They are encouraged to be familiarise themselves with the guidance document on leading an act of worship produced by Diocesan Board of Education.

http://media.contentfiles.net/cofebirmingham/documents/document/2014/04/visitors_in_collective_worship.pdf

The Content of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship follows a Liturgical and consistent format:

Gathering (lighting a candle acknowledging the significance of welcoming Jesus the Light of the World into our worship and our lives, call and response)

Engaging (Bible reading, stories, drama)

Responding (giving time for teaching and reflection - giving individual pupils opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection, discussion)

Sending (prayers, extinguishing the candle and ending with the Grace with actions, reminding us of our faith and God's love which binds us together).

This allows the children to be fully involved in worship whilst giving significance and deepened understanding and value to all that we do.

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

Story... Music... Power point... Images... Poetry... Drama... Puppets... Games... Dance... Questioning... Singing... Praying...

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching (The Lion Storyteller Bible), and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- We use Anglican prayers and hymns including the Lord's Prayer and our school prayer

- Meditation and silence may be used
- Using Anglican sentences and responses (e.g. "The Lord be with you ... and also with you" or "God is good all the time: All the time God is good.")

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing Collective Worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of *Eid ul fitr*, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

In order to maintain the integrity of Collective Worship school notices and matters of discipline should be kept separate. This is aided by clearly showing when Collective Worship has begun and ended (e.g. by lighting and extinguishing a candle).

The Management of Collective Worship

The Governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the Principal has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for Collective Worship in our academy is: **Helen Parker**. We liaise with the Children's Minister: **Sarah Covington** from Knowle Parish Church in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Special or occasional visitors may only be invited to lead collective worship when:

- They have a recommendation / reference from someone trusted by the academy
- They have express permission of the Principal to do so
- There are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

Arrangements for Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Coordinator and Children's Minister monitor and evaluate the provision of Collective Worship throughout the school in line with school improvement priorities and the agreed monitoring schedule.

Governors also monitor the provision of Collective Worship, by asking a representative to attend on a regular basis who then feeds back to the Governing Body. Governors receive regular monitoring reports from key staff. Governors ensure that Collective Worship is reviewed in line with school improvement priorities and the agreed monitoring schedule.

The Worship Council monitor and evaluate *Collective Worship* on a termly basis.

A record of the theme and reflections from the children are kept in our *Collective Worship* books - one for EYFS/KS1 and one for KS2. There is an established rota for this - one class in each department every week.

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from *Collective Worship*. If a parent wishes to consider this option they must first discuss it with the Principal. In such a meeting the Principal will listen to concerns and endeavour to allay any fears or misconceptions by explaining the content and value of collective worship.

As a school we endeavour to equip children for their future through all aspects of education and development, and this includes their spiritual growth. There is a strong emphasis on the shared values, now being expressed through the Fruits of the Spirit that enable us to live and work together and build community that begins in Christian foundations. We encourage the children to think deeply and explore faith through their *Collective Worship*, RE curriculum, the strong links with the parish church and the groups they provide and the children's everyday experience of school.