



## Collective Worship Policy

### Knowle CE Primary Academy

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<b>Approved by:</b>	Full Board July 2025	<b>Date:</b> July 2025
<b>Last reviewed in:</b>	November 2023	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	July 2026	



## Collective Worship Policy for Knowle CE Primary Academy

### Introduction

There has been a school in existence in Knowle for hundreds of years and a Christian-based education has always been at the heart of this thriving community-minded village. The oldest known school in the village was attached to the Chantry of the Church and our heritage, Christian vision, and values, underpin every aspect of school life.

Here at Knowle CE Primary Academy, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of our school day as it is the time when we gather together to reflect, pray and celebrate our shared values, faith and achievements. During this time, demonstrating our Anglican tradition, we hear Bible stories, sing songs, learn about others showing Christian values in the world, and pray. Our Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational, providing opportunities for pupils and staff to engage meaningfully, reflect deeply and be inspired to live our values in our school and wider community.

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.

Our school vision is:

'Growing in God's Love; Flourishing Together'. At Knowle CE Primary Academy, we provide a nurturing environment for all children and adults to grow in mind, body and spirit, enabling everyone to fulfil their potential. Individuals are celebrated for their unique gifts and flourish together through living out our school values, as we make a positive impact on each other, our local community and the wider world. As a result, children are well-prepared for a future in which they will bear lasting fruit and make the world a better place.

Our vision is built upon the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9). Jesus tells us that the seeds that fall on good soil and produce fruit, represent those people who hear God's message and live it out in their lives. At Knowle CE Primary Academy, we share God's message, grow in His love and flourish together.

As a school, we carefully consider the right conditions for growth and our curriculum has been designed to enable children to develop holistically - physically, personally, socially, emotionally, academically and spiritually.

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.

**Collective Worship**

At 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 reflect on our vision and values, affirming what is important to us, to our school, and to our world. It provides an opportunity for pupils and adults to develop spiritually and to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all.

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 worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'. 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 acts of Collective Worship throughout the year. Members of staff will attend acts of collective worship within their own key stage.

In our community, we recognise that some have a commitment to the Christian faith, others have a commitment to another faith, and some have no commitment to any tradition or faith, and some no faith at all. Therefore, our Collective Worship reflects the three 'I's and is always Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspirational, as laid out by the Church of England Education Office's statement of entitlement and expectation.



Whilst our Collective Worship reflects our Anglican tradition, we explore a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. Our aim is to give all the opportunity to flourish spiritually:

- whatever age, aptitude or background
- where the integrity of each is respected
- enabling children and adults to flourish spiritually, exploring their beliefs
- sharing worship on occasion with parents, Governors and members of the local community

Collective Worship in our school promotes Spiritual Development, which is about the relationships and values we consider to be important as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. We do these by directing our attention to the following four areas - Personal (Me), Transcendental (God), Communal (Others) Environmental (World).

Collective Worship promotes Spiritual Development offering a space to all:

#### Transcendental - God

- 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

#### Environmental - World

- to get a sense of things unseen
- to wonder
- to recognise the preciousness of our planet and the natural world - sometimes our collective worship is outside

#### Communal - Others

- 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 realise that life can be hard and challenging, that there is difficulty to be faced, but people can do it together with others

#### Personal - Me/Myself

- to reflect on personal belief
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as part of a bigger picture of life
- to recognise personal strengths and weaknesses
- to note feelings and opinions
- to recognise that everyone gets things wrong and makes mistakes, but it is possible to move beyond them
- to think in a new way
- 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 and Vision 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

### The Organisation of Collective Worship

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

9.10 am (unless otherwise stated)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception/ KS1	Teacher led Collective Worship and Choral Worship	Teacher Led Collective Worship	Church Led Collective Worship	Classroom Collective Worship	Celebration Collective Worship
KS2	Classroom Collective Worship	Teacher led Collective Worship and Choral Worship	Teacher Led Collective Worship	Church Led Collective Worship	Celebration Collective Worship (2.30pm)

Throughout the year there are opportunities for the Collective Worship to take place in Knowle Parish Church. We aim to go to church for our church led Collective Worship once every half term and we currently have the following special services that are child-led: 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. Reception children also lead a Mothering Sunday celebration in school for parents and carers.

### 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. We follow a three-year planning cycle. There is an over-riding termly theme which will also relate 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, with close links made to our values and to Bible stories.

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Autumn	Exploring the books of the Bible, Old and New Testaments	Fruits of the Spirit	The Big Story of the Bible
Spring	Love	Living Well and Developing Christ like Character	The Lord's Prayer
Summer	Our planet and its people	Windows for Worship	Values Jesus Displayed

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\\_collactive\\_worship.pdf](http://media.contentfiles.net/cofebirmingham/documents/document/2014/04/visitors_in_collactive_worship.pdf)

### The Content of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship follows a Liturgical and consistent format:

**Gathering** - lighting a candle acknowledging that Jesus the Light of the World, and a call and response

**Engaging** - Bible readings, stories, drama, music and hymns and songs of praise

**Responding** - giving time for teaching and reflection - giving pupils and staff opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection, discussion

**Sending** - prayers, extinguishing the candle and ending with the Grace with actions led by the Worship Council, 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, Good News 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 and our Worship Table reflects the liturgical season with either a green, purple, red or white cloth
- 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." Or our school call and response "Growing in God's love: Flourishing Together")

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).

We have a well-established Worship Council, made up of members from each class from year one through to six, who meet regularly throughout the academic year. They assist with embedding our vision and values across the school (e.g. through art projects) as well with leading key elements of our Collective Worship. They also undertake different projects throughout the year to help enhance our Christian distinctiveness. These children liaise with their peers and feed back to the group on ways in which Collective Worship can be enhanced. The Worship Council will also support class teachers when they lead the weekly worship.

Each classroom will have a reflection area that will be used as a focal point for class collective worship, prayer and quiet reflection. Each area will have:

Our Christian vision artwork

Our Fruits of the Spirit artwork

A prayer jar/booklet



A candle (battery is fine)

A Bible

A Christian cross (physical or creative artwork)

### **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.

### **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 in Reception and KS1 are kept in our Collective Worship books and there is an established rota for this - one class in each department every week. In KS2 there is a reflection board where children can add their own thoughts and reflections on the weekly worship.

### **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.

