

Kingsland CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Let your light shine

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine on our vision:

As God's children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.

September 2025

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Date for full implementation: September 2025
Review date: September 2028

Kingsland CE Primary School regards collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision in which we live out that:
As God's children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.

What is Collective Worship?

By definition, the word 'worship' is about giving 'worth, honour and respect to'. In specific places of worship the focus of this worship is usually God, or some form of deity. However, those of no faith can find a place in our 'worship' which is not necessarily focussed on God, but is still inspirational and aspirational. For the purposes of this document, 'collective worship' is the special time put aside each day in our school for 'worship'.

The word 'collective' suggests the possibility of a number of 'worships' as opposed to the 'corporate' worship of a body of likeminded believers. The word collective opens up the opportunities of individuals from many different faith backgrounds, and certainly those with no faith background at all, discovering possibilities and opportunities. It is about *exploring* together and individually; discovering what might be 'worthy of honour and respect'.

Collective worship is the heartbeat of us as a church school:

By law, every school in England has to provide a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In schools with a faith foundation such as Church of England schools, this should also reflect the Anglican traditions of the church.

Collective worship differs from the corporate worship in church, as it a space where all the pupils and staff, including those of other faiths or of non-religious worldviews can gather together to reflect. This can be as a whole school, as house or year groups or even as a classes.

We aim for all our acts of worship to be **inclusive**, **invitational** and **inspirational**, with pupils encouraged to take an active role in planning and leading worship.

This policy and our Collective Worship principles are in line with the [Church of England](#) Education Office '[Guidance for Collective Worship in Schools](#)'

Our acts of worship celebrate our school vision to reflect all that is worthy of praise. They provide an opportunity to explore Christian liturgy, stories (sometimes from wider world views) and values in an ethos which actively encourages awe, wonder and reflection.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Guiding Principles:

As a Church of England Primary School, we base our understanding of teaching and learning on Biblical principles.

- We consider it a huge privilege and responsibility to be teachers; many of us would describe it as a vocation for which we feel God's calling and enabling. Therefore we are committed to serving the children, our colleagues, this school and this community whole-heartedly.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach."

Romans 12: 6-7

- We believe that every child is a precious and unique child of God, formed in His image and created in God's love. Therefore we want the best for every child in every way. We aim to understand each child as an individual. We seek to build on their strengths and weaknesses, providing the challenge and support that they require. We strive to provide the best education for them so that they can flourish in body, mind and soul. We are aware that we are laying foundations for the future:

'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

Proverbs 22:6



- We do not want children to fit into boxes but we want them to thrive and flourish as they discover their own unique talents. Therefore we offer an education that is rich, broad and balanced. We desire that teaching and learning are inspirational and will therefore engender a love of learning for life.

'Education is not the filling of a bucket; but the lighting of a fire.'

W.B. Yeats

- We desire that our children grow in wisdom as well as knowledge, skills and understanding. At the heart of our wise education is a delight in wisdom and a passionate pursuit of it, through our innovative and ambitious curriculum. Therefore we seize opportunities to discuss ethical issues and to consider the implications of their decisions for others.

'Where is the life that we have lost in living?

Where is the wisdom that we have lost in knowledge?

Where is the knowledge that we have lost in information?'

T.S. Eliot

- We believe the worth of each child impels us to work to fulfil their God-given potential so that a shared vision of educating for hope and aspiration are at the root of our inclusive and progressive curriculum.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Hebrews 6:19

- We embrace the conviction that we are created and sustained by God for the benefit of the whole community, embodying the centrality of relationships and living well together in love, compassion, generosity, truth-telling and forgiveness. Our community is bound in a covenant that commits us to love God and be a good neighbour to all.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.'

Deuteronomy 6:5

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'

Leviticus 19:18

- We share a commitment to the dignity and ultimate worth of everyone, rooted in each being created in the image of God and loved by God, embodying the love, compassion and respect of God for each person. To encounter Jesus is to be invited into 'life in all its fullness':

'I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.'

John 10:10

- We want children to learn to love. In addressing 'life in all its fullness', our curriculum is founded upon the principles of discovering joy in each other, harbouring respect and reconciliation.

'If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.'

1 Corinthians 13:2

- We are not embarrassed by excellence. We want to develop to be the best teachers that we can be in all subjects. Yet we appreciate our own God-given gifts and passions. Therefore we shall continue to employ a teaching team that can build each other up for the good of the children. Staff will be expected to lead and encourage within their own specialisms. They will be supported professionally to grow and give of their best.

'The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.'

Proverbs 8:15

- We want children to develop spiritually so that they are able to revel in life's joys and have strength, resilience and perseverance when life is tough. Therefore spiritual development is at the heart of our curriculum.

'Education is about forming people who have the moral strength and spiritual depth to hold to a course and weather ups and downs. It is about forming a people who know that economic competition is not more important than family life and love of neighbour, and that technical innovation is not more important than reverence for the beauty of our creation. It is about forming people who, however academically and technically skilful, are not reduced to inarticulate embarrassment by the great questions of life and death, meaning and truth. Church schools themselves embody the truth that a context of firm principles suffused by faith and love is the best and right basis for learning and growing.'

Dr George Carey 'The Way Ahead'

Aims and purpose:

We, as a school, believe that good collective worship should:

- Enable children to explore and enjoy praise and prayer.
- Be a special time enabling children and adults present to worship together in a distinctly spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship and to have an awareness of God's presence.
- Foster a spirit of belonging within the school.
- Provide a time to share and celebrate the successes and efforts of the in children's achievements providing an atmosphere that allow for spiritual reflection and response.
- Enable children to appreciate, explore and know how others worship God and why they worship in a particular way, thus fostering new insights and empathy about the life of faith of others.
- Provide an opportunity to worship together, thinking about the needs of others with care and sensitivity, fostering a concern for the needs of others regardless of race, colour or creed.
- Foster and value a search for faith to live by, providing an opportunity for children to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence and forgiveness.
- Develop the ability to listen and respond appropriately to a variety of speakers.

Collective Worship at Kingsland CE Primary School:

- Collective Worship at Kingsland CE Primary School plays an important part in the life of our school. As it's 'living centre' of the work, worship and worth of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian

worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation, and affirms every individual's unique contribution and response, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly, including members of staff.
- Collective Worship at Kingsland CE Primary School is a time for 'Finding Treasure'. A range of resources are used for inspirational forms of preparation, stimuli and reflection opportunities. We want children to find an 'inner treasure', a 'shared treasure', an 'overflowing treasure' and a 'lasting treasure'.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church and Christian values. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- Values Education is an important theme running throughout the whole school curriculum. As a school, we have chosen six values, one value for each half term, which forms the theme for Collective Worship, as well as being followed through into the daily life of the school, Circle Times, RE and PSHE. The Value of the half term is always considered from a Christian perspective and has been chosen to link with the Christian Festivals.
- In our school, the process of worship takes place through a variety of media - song, story, drama, dance, music, poetry, prayer, response and reflection.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating Worship Time:

Our acts of worship are flexibly planned around an annual programme of Christian values, taking account of important church festivals, key dates (e.g. saint's days) or key events in the life of the children, school and country. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with curricular themes being covered in that term. The school council, Worship Team or eco-committee may plan and conduct an act of worship.

Periodically, children, staff and adults evaluate worship. Children may take our Worship Time Reflection Book home to allow for a deeper time for reflection and to share the learning experience with family members. The Learn to Love Committee take opportunities during the year to ask questions to help shape and reform the way the Christian ethos is lived out, including how we might develop worship.

Christian Values:

Each half term a Christian value is unpacked and explored, both in Collective Worship and within classrooms, to allow children and adults to reflect deeply on how these values impact their lives. These Christian values also help to deepen our understanding of the school vision, 'Let your light shine'.

Our vision is focussed through the four key Christian elements of:

Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

Educating for Community and Living Well Together

Educating for Dignity and Respect



Each half term we unpack a deeply Christian value (alongside a key British value) to help us develop a shared understanding of how to live out the school's vision and mission:

Year A	
Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	Educating for Dignity and Respect
LOVE Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	RESPECT Mutual respect
Spring 1	Spring 2
Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	Educating for Community and Living Well Together
JUSTICE & COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY Democracy	THANKFULNESS Individual liberty
Summer 1	Summer 2
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	Educating for Hope and Aspiration
FORGIVENESS Awareness of what it means to be British	PEACE Rule of Law

Year B	
Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	Educating for Dignity and Respect
COMPASSION Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	KINDNESS & HONESTY Mutual respect
Spring 1	Spring 2
Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	Educating for Community and Living Well Together
SERVICE & HUMILITY Democracy	GRATITUDE Individual liberty

Summer 1	Summer 2
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	Educating for Hope and Aspiration
RESILIENCE Awareness of what it means to be British	EQUITY & EQUALITY Rule of Law

Organisation of Collective Worship:

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. The normal pattern for worship each week is as follows:

	Worship Time focus	Collective Worship learning
Monday 10.15 – 10.30am	Whole school Worship Time led by Hannah Kelsall (Checkpoint Charity) or Mr Debenham (Headteacher)	Liturgy, story and prayers linked to Christian values. Time for reflection and appropriate worship song. Children may be involved in story-telling, reading or prayer.
Tuesday 2.50 – 3.10pm	Whole school Worship Time led by Rev Rosie Roberts, or Open the Book	Liturgy, story and prayers linked to Christian values. Time for reflection and appropriate worship song. Children may be involved in story-telling, reading or prayer.
Wednesday 2.45 – 3.10pm	Whole school Songs of Praise, led by Mr Debenham, with Mr Hymas	A variety of songs (Out of the Ark, classic hymns and other relevant modern worship songs) practised and enjoyed with reference made to words and values within. Prayers – staff or child-led.
Thursday 2.50 – 3.10pm	Whole school Worship Time led by members of the staff team, or pupil-led worship, or topical issue worship	Story, message, prayer and song link with focus of worship appropriate to children's age.
Friday 9.05 – 9.25am	Celebration Assembly	A focus on celebrating and sharing achievements: Headteacher's Awards, House Tokens, Maths Rock, personal achievements, birthdays

- We conduct Worship Time in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Worship Time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music as the children come quietly into the hall. Fresh flowers, a candle and a Bible are often on the focus table. Other objects often act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having regular services in our local church and by welcoming the commitment of our Reverend, Rev Rosie Roberts

- The Headteacher, members of staff and Rev Rosie Roberts (Curate of Kingsland Church) conduct Worship Time weekly. Other local clergy and representatives of various Christian denominations also lead our Worship Times.
- We regularly invite representatives from charities to take part in our worship, e.g. Christian Aid, Barnardos, Operation Christmas Child. We believe that it is good for our children to consider the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves, and to help them whenever we can.
- We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, based on the value of the half term and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our worship based on the overall theme of Christian Values well in advance of the day they take place.
- Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. During Celebration Assemblies we encourage the children to participate in showing their work to the other children and celebrating their achievements. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We enjoy celebrating the successes of all the children in assemblies and during worship.
- Our school musicians often take part in Collective Worship, performing as children enter the hall.
- We invite parents to share in worship with us in church and for class-led assemblies, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at Collective Worship at any time.
- A period of reflection on the Worship Time is encouraged when children return to their classes, ensuring that age-appropriate discussions and reflections allow the children to take the messages away from school, influencing the way they live their lives.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured. The Collective Worship policy sets out the management and delivery of this part of school life.

The Collective Worship leader manages this area of the curriculum, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

The Collective Worship leader monitors resources available for Collective Worship and ensures that they are accessible to staff and pupils as appropriate. An annual budget is available to ensure that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

Resources for Collective Worship are plentiful. They can be found in the Worship Box; music is on the shelves in the hall, and Bibles are kept in the resource cupboard.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Worship Times and assemblies. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

The staff and governors at Kingsland CE Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Monitoring and review

It is the role the 'Learn to Love' ethos committee to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship before reporting to the governors on its impact.

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an ongoing process through observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest, classroom feedback and observation of children's general behaviour in and around the school and to one another.



Kingsland CE Primary School

Guidance for Leaders of Collective Worship

If you are are leading Collective Worship in our school, please consider these thoughts:

- Arrive in plenty of time.
- Be prepared! Have your resources ready. Phone ahead to check that what you need is available e.g. projector, screen, piano, and pianist.
- Don't expect school staff to prepare your resources for you – they will probably be delighted to but ... they are very busy!
- Check beforehand on what is expected e.g. timings, prayers, songs.
- Finish on time.
- Be very clear about your aim. What do you want the children to take away with them?
- Simple is better than complicated.
- If you whip the children into a frenzy, have a strategy for calming them down before sending them back to class.
- Try to keep a balance – excitement, energy and joy/calm, reflection/peace.
- Remember that the children should feel secure and safe in this setting, not embarrassed or afraid.
- Don't make assumptions about what the children know already.
- Never be patronising – to staff or children.
- Involve the children, either physically or mentally – relate to their experiences, their lives, their feelings, their expectations.
- Ask for advice from a member of staff if you're not sure which child to choose to take part.
- Be sensitive when talking about families/Mums/Dads.
- Project! Can everyone hear you?
- Respect the beliefs and view of others.
- Leading Collective Worship is a privilege! Try to look as if you are enjoying it!