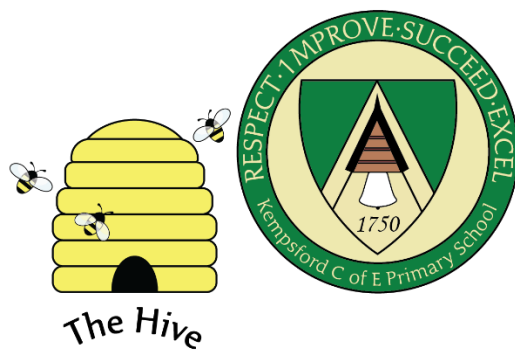


# Kempsford Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy



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**Name of School:** Kempsford Church of England

**School's Vision:** High expectations and Christian values help children to Respect, Improve, Succeed and Excel.

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### Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time during the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school—"that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"—is not relevant. Worship in Kempsford Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The school has the responsibility to ensure that it meets the worship requirements 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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### School Statement on Collective Worship

In Kempsford Church of England Primary School, worship is central to the life of the school and serves as the main platform for exploring the school's vision.

We at Kempsford School are passionate about our togetherness: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). Through our commitment to RISE, we ensure that every child can flourish in "... LIFE, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Together, we will RISE.

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 Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, 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. However, in Kempsford Church of England Primary School, the purpose of collective worship is to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

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“Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and religious literacy and liberates participants to imagine a different order of justice, mercy, and hope”

— CEEO Vision statement “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good” Autumn 2016.

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, liturgy, sacrament, and experience of the 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 (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be given time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational, and inclusive.

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### **Aims and Guiding Principles**

Collective worship in Kempsford Church of England Primary School 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 Jesus and 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 while 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 while 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.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local vicar and the Diocese of Gloucester).
- 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, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- 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.

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### **Organisation**

#### **Leadership**

Collective Worship is led by the Head Teacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a member of the clergy or local church, or individual visitors or teams. The role of the local church is to support and lead

collective worship in partnership with the school on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year.

The local vicar/church has a responsibility to support leaders of collective worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible, and develop a deeper understanding of Anglican traditions and liturgy. Visitors leading Collective Worship are given support by the school, e.g., they are informed of the focus value for that term, the related Bible story, and the termly value prayer.

## **Planning**

Worship is planned by the Head Teacher, teachers, and clergy.

Children lead class worship. We have a Worship team who open and close our whole-school worship. Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year by using the different liturgical-coloured cloths and explaining the meaning of the colours. Christian festivals are also celebrated at the appropriate times. The Christian values of the school are identified, expressed, and celebrated through collective worship by being a focus of all our Collective Worship.

Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school by having a key Bible text that reflects the value. These stories are embedded in Class Worship and referred to in Collective Worship. We have a clear Collective Worship structure that is followed:

- On Monday in Collective Worship, we focus on a moment in time.
- Tuesday we have singing worship.
- On Wednesday we 'tell the story' with the support of The Open Book Team.
- On Thursday the focus is to make sense of something in the world and make connections to Bible stories or own experiences.
- Friday is Celebration Worship where all of the children's achievements are celebrated.

Anglican tradition is reflected in Collective Worship by having an opening, a story, time for reflection, prayer, and the closing of the worship session. A variety of materials are used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points (e.g., a picture or candle).

Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world by teachers planning worship that includes diversity and is reflective of current and historic global issues.

We allow for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness, and reflection.

## **Organisation of Worship**

The different groupings for worship include whole-school and class worship. Worship takes place in the school hall and in classrooms. The space is made special, and the atmosphere for worship is created using:

- The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
- Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,
- Christian readings,
- Ritual and liturgical responses,
- The local church.

Worship is held at 9:00 AM daily for 20 minutes. All staff attend Whole School Worship. The staff are also required to lead Class Worship once a week.

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## **Recording, Monitoring, and Evaluation**

Worship is monitored three times a year by the Head Teacher (DHT) and Ex-officio governor or member of the standards and ethos committee.

Worship planning is monitored on a weekly basis to ensure consistency in approach as well as promoting diversity. Monitoring includes pupil conferencing, class worship observations, teacher feedback, and monitoring of floor books. Monitoring and evaluation of worship have led to its strengthening and development. An example of this is that we have responded to teacher and pupil requests to continue having Class Worship once a week. The Values team evaluates Collective Worship by talking to different year groups throughout the year. These evaluations are discussed by the Collective Worship team to see how we can improve Collective Worship in school. The monitoring process is recorded in a report and also in a governor's report, which is discussed with staff and governors. Children are also part of this process, and any findings are fed back through the Pupil Council.

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## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The governing body monitors and oversees the continued delivery and development of Collective Worship in the school.
- The Head Teacher and the senior leadership team monitor and adapt the CW timetable as needed:
  - To ensure pupil voice takes place.
  - Lead Worship Council and Prayer Spaces.
  - Monitor CW planning.
  - Develop CW in line with new initiatives and advice from the Diocese of Gloucestershire, as well as the Church of England Education Department.
- Teaching and support staff plan and deliver whole-school and class collective worship.
- Collective Worship is inclusive and invitational and is delivered daily.
- Children are given additional opportunities to reflect on CW using the reflection spaces in the classrooms and outside of the school hall.
- Children are also invited to participate in Prayer Space activities.
- Parents and carers are occasionally invited to attend Class Collective Worship.
- Visitors are invited to join class Collective Worship if they are in school at the appropriate time.

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## **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.

Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship. For example, they are given our Values for Life planning so they are aware of the values each term and the linking Bible story.

Staff attend CPD sessions to support understanding of Collective Worship and RE.

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## **The Right of Withdrawal from 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. In Kempsford Church of

England Primary School, there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith or who hold a non-religious worldview.

On occasion, 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 headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- 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 headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests, providing:

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

If a parent asks that a pupil 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, even though the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

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### **Development and Sharing of 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.

This policy was developed using the school's vision statement, values, and key school drivers. It was developed using resources, including the Church of England Vision for Education and Statement of Entitlement. This has been supported by Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring Guidance Document.

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### **Links to Other Policies and Documentation**

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document. We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practices, including those concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- 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 in the school prospectus and on the school website.