



St. Sebastian's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

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"A school family with a Christian ethos, where we help each other to flourish."

Aim

The aim of this policy is to explain how Collective Worship is organised at St. Sebastian's Church of England Primary School, within The Keys Academy Trust.

Our Christian Vision

St Sebastian's School and Nursery has a strong sense of family, where all who come can belong, feel safe and experience God's love regardless of their background.

The apostle Paul describes God's family as being made up of those who know the love of Jesus and whose lives are marked by that love (Ephesians 3:14-19).

We believe that our school values of Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness, Trust, Compassion and Thankfulness reflect the love of Jesus and provide a caring framework upon which we can all grow.

Jesus shows us all in his teachings in the Bible how we can demonstrate these values. The parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 demonstrates God's love and how we can learn to care for those in need. It also shows respect that we can all give and receive in our School. It illustrates how we should show God's love to those around us every day.

In our School, every child belongs to a family group and every school year is represented in each group. In each half term the children will focus on one value and explore and share their ideas with the whole school, in Collective Worship and throughout the school day.

The children are encouraged to participate and take responsibility in School. In 1 Timothy 4:12 it says 'Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to others with your words, your actions, your love and your faith, and your pure life.'

By allowing our children to feel safe, supported and loved by God, this gives them the space to learn and be inspired to excel. We are a place where children's similarities and differences are celebrated, as are their achievements.

Introduction

Legislation, including the Education Act 1944 and the Education Reform Act 1988, requires every school to hold a daily Act of Worship or several acts of Collective Worship, which shall be mainly Christian in character. As Church of England Schools, we believe that Collective Worship plays an important part in children's social, moral, cultural and spiritual development. We acknowledge our Christian foundation whilst valuing the contributions of other faiths.

Key Points

Aims of Collective Worship

The aims of collective worship in our schools are:

- to provide an opportunity to promote an understanding of the nature of God and enable children to worship God in three persons as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- to enable children to explore, and reflect on, spiritual and moral issues, to deepen their own beliefs and explore the beliefs of others.
- to encourage children to worship by creating an atmosphere conducive to silent reflection, inner response and active participation.
- to introduce children to the richness of the Bible.
- to give children practical experience of prayer.
- to explore the schools Christian Values of: Friendship, Honesty, Compassion, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Trust.
- to celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of life and living.
- to help children to develop respect for and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices from their own.

Withdrawing pupils from Collective Worship

The Law requires that every child should attend an act of collective worship on every School day. If any parent wishes to exercise their legal right to withdraw a child from collective worship, the Governors of the school will expect parents to discuss this with the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher is both responsible for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that suitable arrangements are made for any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Content

Every act of collective worship should include the elements of music, theme, focal point, bible reading, clear purpose, time for reflection, prayer, symbolic action and take away thought (see Appendix 1).

Over the course of a year, Collective Worship should include:

- The teachings of Jesus and other Bible stories;
- Reflections on Christian symbols and their use in worship;
- The main festivals in the cycle of the Church's year;
- Prayers, hymns and songs;
- Children's spoken written and dramatic work.

The trustees expect that there will be a strong link between Collective Worship and religious education.

Collective worship may take a variety of forms including worship in either the Church or in school.

The governors hope that a variety of people will be invited to lead acts of Worship and that parents and members of the local community will be invited to share in our Worship.

Collective Worship will be monitored by each school's RE subject leader in consultation with the Foundation Governors and the LGB.

Appendix 1 – Elements of Collective Worship

Key elements of collective worship

Item	Key Elements
1	Music Reflective music on entry and exit
2	Theme – linked to liturgical year, our Christian vision and values, school life, class work and is developed throughout the assembly. Contributes to pupils living and understanding of Christian way of life
3	Focal point – maybe matched to liturgical year/season/theme
4	Biblical reading Piece of relevant and appropriate scripture, including parables, readings and stories shared in a variety of ways
5	Planned with a clear purpose Planned and prepared by the teacher and delivered by teacher/children with a clear purpose using appropriate resources
6	Time for Reflection/silence (with a candle), with a prayer and symbolic action Could be a visual/musical/stimulus
7	Includes a “take away” message – for children to think about and reflect on during the rest of the school day/week