

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Last Review Date</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>Subject Leader</b>
<b>Collective Worship</b>	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>Autumn 2022</b>	<b>MG/HB/AM/FH</b>

**ST. SEBASTIAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

**(1) 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.

**(2) 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.

**(3) Key Points**

**(i) 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.

## **(ii) 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 Headteacher. The Headteacher 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for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that suitable arrangements are made for any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

## **(iii) 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 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 Church and School Organisation Committee (CASOC). The committee will formally review training needs on an annual basis and identify training opportunities.

## Appendix 1 – Elements of Collective Worship

**Collective Worship**  
**Key elements for a class/key stage assembly**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Elements</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Music</b> Reflective music on entry and exit
<b>2</b>	<b>Theme</b> – linked to liturgical year, school life, class work and is developed throughout the assembly. Contributes to pupils living and understanding of Christian way of life
<b>3</b>	<b>Focal point</b> – maybe matched to liturgical year/season/theme
<b>4</b>	<b>Biblical reading</b> Piece of relevant and appropriate scripture – psalm/reading/verses shared in a variety of ways
<b>5</b>	<b>Planned with a clear purpose</b> Planned and prepared by the teacher and delivered by teacher/children with a clear purpose using appropriate resources
<b>6</b>	<b>Time for Reflection/silence</b> Could be a visual/musical/stimulus
<b>7</b>	<b>Prayer</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Symbolic action</b> – lighting a candle/facing the cross
<b>9</b>	<b>Includes a “take away” message</b> – for children to think about and reflect on during the rest of the school day/week