



Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School

'A school where every child can shine.'

Collective Worship Policy

Version History	
Date	Detail
Spring 2020	Agreed by staff/Approved by Governors
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Kirk Langley is a Church of England Primary School and our family believe that 'Every Child Can Shine.' Our visions and values, built on the living Gospel of Christ within daily life, are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning and provide an environment which prepares our pupils in being respectful, confident, thriving citizens.

Daniel 12:3

'Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.'

We aim to provide a thriving, inspiring and stimulating learning environment where children achieve the very best, they are capable of because all the staff value their different learning styles. Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School is committed to Christian values where children, parents/carers and our community know us by our actions.

Within a Christian ethos we aim to:

- Promote a positive attitude to life-long learning, nurturing the development of self-esteem; leading to aspirational, independent learners that are prepared to be challenged and take risks in a diverse and ever-changing world.
- Provide the children with valuable experiences and opportunities, through a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, where learning is purposeful and engaging.
- Use a variety of teaching strategies and resources effectively and creatively; encouraging each child to progress and attain to the highest possible standards, in relation to their age and ability.
- Strongly believe in the partnership of parental involvement in the education of our pupils.
- Demonstrate and foster respect for ourselves and others within the school, local community and the global community.
- Respect the belief of others and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Encourage spiritual and moral values.
- Explicitly promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs through a 'living' curriculum.
- Value each child as an individual within the school and respect personal beliefs.

'Kirk Langley Church of England Primary is committed to safeguarding all children and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Christian Distinctiveness and Values

Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School is committed to being a school where parents, carers and our family community know us by our actions. Our vision is to promote educational excellence within an environment that is dedicated to the living teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily life. It is built on an atmosphere of respect, sensitivity to individual needs; where children's self-esteem and confidence grow because they are able to make mistakes without fear. We believe our deeply Christian foundation recognises the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.

Our vision is translated into explicit teaching and learning both in RE, Collective Worship and across the broad balanced curriculum to show our children the value of Jesus' promise to see 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)

At Kirk Langley C of E Primary our practice embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of all our children. Our vision is dedicated to the four values which permeate education:

- Wisdom
- Hope
- Community
- Dignity

The vision, in line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole community and its environment. It celebrates diversity; respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings.

'There is something mysterious and potentially wonderful in all of us.'

The Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.

- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, we believe it is always good practice to arrange to discuss this with parents if a request emerges. There may be issues about a particular aspect of the programme which may be allayed after discussion. If parent/carers still feel they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. This must be allowed by the school, and we will also provide alternative activity and supervision for this pupil.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

At Kirk Langley Church of England (VC) Primary school we consider collective worship to be an essential part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

We aim for our collective worship to:

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision;
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors;
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example:
 - using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Interact with local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Community

Our school works with the local vicar and other church members to plan and deliver acts of worship that are invitational, reflective and engaging. There is plenty of flexibility in the provision of collective worship to enable all pupils to benefit without compromising their beliefs.

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.

We evaluate the impact of collective worship on the school community and its contribution to the values and ethos of the school each term and our Governors attend acts of worship across an academic year as part of belonging but also to monitor the provision. In 2019 -2019, we extended the role of our elected School Councilors to incorporate Collective Worship Council.

The value of collective worship

Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experiences. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of our school and to the society and world in which we live.

We aim for our programme of collective worship to enrich the life of our school in many ways and we try to be creative and imaginative in organising this provision.

We believe that collective worship:

- Offers space for the school community to learn, grow and celebrate together;
- Provides an opportunity for personal reflection on individual life or wider issues;
- Nurtures all aspects of SMSC development, especially spiritual development;
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of fundamental values;
- Enables us to meet and engage with the local community through participants in assemblies;
- Responds to topical or local issues in a flexible and sensitive way;
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to develop their own abilities in preparing, presenting or evaluating impact through provision.

We see collective worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

SIAMS 2019: *Collective worship is at the heart of the school. Biblical teaching inspires pupils to think deeply about how to be all that they can be and how they might make a difference for others. Music, silence and reflection provide poignant spiritual moments to find peace, comfort or challenge. Pupils pray aloud readily and spontaneously. Intentional opportunities are given for spirituality to overflow into the school day, made visible in the reflection spaces around the school and in conversations between pupils and adults*

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for:

‘British Values Democracy Rule of law Individual liberty Mutual Respect Tolerance of different cultures and religions.’

Exploring our fundamental British Values alongside Christian values:

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) building a sense of group identity;
- e) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) a break from the busy-ness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- g) learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) making visible the school’s leadership;
- l) developing inner awareness.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Kirk Langley Church of England (VC) Primary we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. A member of

the staff team leads these times of shared focus. During the $\frac{1}{2}$ term we have a different focus for the Acts of Worship. These include children sharing and learning about aspects of SMSC, celebrating children's achievements, learning about inspiring people and different beliefs, engaging with our wider school community, discussing aspects of SEAL and responding to topical issues in a flexible and sensitive way.

Our Reverend Jacqueline Stober also leads Acts of Collective Worship each $\frac{1}{2}$ term.

As St Michael's Church is very close to our school, and for extended community links, we undertake an Act of Worship in the church every $\frac{1}{2}$ term.

Principles and practice at our school

Families who send their children to Kirk Langley Church of England Primary School come from a wide variety of backgrounds and beliefs. A wide range of faith backgrounds are represented including Hindu, Muslim and Christian, as well as, children from families with no religious belief. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

These are our key principles in planning collective worship:

- All children will take part in Collective Worship every day.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to take a lead and to participate.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals. They will also relate to the children's interests – classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will be opportunity to recognise the distinctiveness of the many faiths and world views shared in our community.
- Time will also be provided for reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship; other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising (attempt to convert). Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate.

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher. (see our Visitors/External Speakers Safeguarding Policy).

Reflection

Collective worship includes opportunities for reflection. We are also sensitive in our planning to ensure these times are as inclusive as possible.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to access to Collective worship. All children will have access to appropriate resources within the school. These will reflect a multi-cultural society, without stereotyping or discrimination. We are mindful of the need to promote the inclusion of all protected characteristics and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our $\frac{1}{2}$ termly Acts of Collective Worship within the local community and St Michael's Church every $\frac{1}{2}$ term.

Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a folder, which is kept in the GDPR cupboard.

The RE monitoring Link Governor, school council, and CW leader seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship every term.

The School was inspected on October 2nd 2019 and the full report is on our website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy and guidance will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by all stakeholders of the school including pupils, parents, staff and governors. Our School Councillors also seek the views of their peers which supports our measure of impact. The impact is aimed at matching our vision and values.