

# Collective Worship Policy – Kelsey Primary School

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## **Introduction**

This document outlines the purpose, nature and operational management of collective worship in Kelsey Primary School.

## **Linked Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Complaints
- Disability / Equality
- Freedom of Information
- Inclusion

## **Aims**

The collective worship policy is designed to:

- State Kelsey Primary Schools response to collective worship.
- Explain the purpose of collective worship.
- Provide parents / guardians with an overview of what the school will / will not do in regard to collective worship.
- Inform parents / guardians of their right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

## **Statement of Intent**

It is our intention to respect the beliefs of children, their families and staff, while ensuring that they are provided with an understanding of collective worship in a safe and secure environment in which to grow and learn. This includes as appropriate the chance to learn about other faiths and beliefs.

## **Legal Framework**

The 1988 Education Reform Act.  
The 1944 Education Act.

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## Statement of Policy

### 1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
  - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
  - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
  - to encourage participation and response;
  - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
  - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
  - to teach children how to worship.

### 2 Collective worship

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### 3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate Key Stage assemblies.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

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**3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

**3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Kelsey Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

### **4 Right of withdrawal**

**4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.

**4.2** The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **5 Monitoring and review**

**5.1** At Kelsey Primary School it is the role of the full governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship (and religious Education). The chair of governors concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

### **Policy Information:**

**Date adopted by the governing body:**

**December 2012**

**Policy Written by:**

**Magnus Smedley (Headteacher)**

**Policy Review Date:**

**July 2017**

**Signed:**

**Chair of governors:**

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**Headteacher:**

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