



KINGSWAY COMMUNITY TRUST

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

December 2020

Collective Worship Policy

Date: December 2020

Review date: Autumn 2025

Collective worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of Kingsway Community Trust Primary Schools.

Each of our Trust school's funding agreements mirrors the requirements for acts of collective worship in local authority maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70.

Collective worship provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather together, to remind themselves of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind the school community together.

The community of our schools come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds including those who do not practice or profess any faith background. Through our daily act of collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Reflect on values and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues

Collective Worship provides an invaluable opportunity for the school community to focus on and reaffirm those values which are considered to be of supreme worth and importance. Values which are regularly re-visited as themes for collective worship include: -

Care, co-operation, commitment, courage, empathy, honesty, forgiveness, friendship, loyalty, respect, responsibility and self-worth.

We believe that our times of collective worship can play an important role in deepening the spiritual awareness of our pupils. Collective worship, at its best, provides pupils with an opportunity to reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things. Pupils are led into an experience of quietness to counterbalance the busy activity, which generally marks the rest of the school day. Such quiet times will often lend themselves to the nurturing of:-

A sense of awe and wonder, especially with regard to the natural world (eg the power of the seed to grow or a candle glowing in the darkness). We are also able to sensitively explore issues of loss and suffering, limitation and frustration.

Collective worship at our Trust schools gives pupils the opportunity to hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye. Through collective worship, we encourage the children to recognise the widely-held belief in the existence of a deity. We will often consider values which are shared by different faiths.

Where meeting together is not possible, remote assemblies are used.

Festivals

In line with legislation that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", we place particular emphasis on the Christian festivals of Harvest, Easter and Christmas . However, it is important to note that we also mark and value highly other significant religious festivals, particularly those celebrated by families in our school. Our concern is always to explore the reasons for celebration. Pupils are not themselves required to 'celebrate' religious beliefs which neither they nor their family adhere to.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship.

Our school is based on an inclusive ethos; we expect all children to attend collective worship assemblies. However we respect the right of any parent/guardian to request permission for their child to be excused. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. Withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Executive Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of those children granted withdrawal from assemblies. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act.

This policy should be used in conjunction and with reference to the section of the Safeguarding Policy - Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism, page 57.

Issue Status

Date	Issue	Date approved by Trustees	Review date
December 2015	Version 1 – December 2015		Autumn 2020
December 2020	Version 2 – December 2020	7 December 2020	Autumn 2025