



KEA SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Full Governors **Date:** 10 October 2022

Last reviewed on: August 2022

Next review due by: October 2024

Signed by: **Name:**

This policy aims to outline the purpose and nature of collective worship within the school. It recognises, affirms and celebrates the values held to be of central importance to the school community and which enable us to fulfil the vision of the school. A fuller exploration of religious beliefs and traditions takes place within religious education. 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 (unless a right to withdraw has been exercised, see section 5).

1 Vision

“A great place to learn and make friends”. At Kea School we value pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective worship makes a significant contribution to this development and to pupils’ strong sense of being part of a community rooted in strong, shared values.

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 traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school; we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions which are represented in our school, our wider community and our country.

2 Rationale

Kea School is a Community school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. At Kea school we recognise that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth. It is attended by pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

3. Aims

We provide all children with opportunities to:

- explore their own beliefs
- consider moral and spiritual issues and values which are of a broadly Christian character
- hear and respond to selected stories from the Bible and other sources
- explore feelings of wonder, awe, mystery and joy and reflect on and respond to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the shared values of the school community and reinforce positive attitudes
- celebrate special occasions together, including giving thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- participate and respond in various ways, such as spending time in reflection, discussion and prayer

- build the foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

4. Legal Status of Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”. The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Kea School take into account the pupils’ ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions, assembly may proceed or follow and Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship may be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

5. Rights of Withdrawal

At Kea School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

All teachers, including the headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship.

6. Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. Assemblies will take place in individual classes, in the hall as a whole school or phase or by using an online method such as Microsoft Teams.

Day	Leader	Theme	Location
Monday	Head/Deputy		Hall
Tuesday		Class based collective worship	Classrooms
Wednesday		Visiting teams/churches leading assembly (e.g. Kea Church Open the Book) or singing	Hall
Thursday		Class based collective worship	Classrooms
Friday	Head/Deputy	Celebration Assembly	Hall

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. 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. Each assembly ends with a moment of reflection sometimes supported by the lighting of a candle and prayer.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

7. Visiting Leaders

The Head Teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. Regular visitors include ministers from Kea Church, Open the Book from Kea Church and local Methodist Churches as well as other local Christian workers. Religious leaders from other faiths are also invited to lead. Visitors lead collective worship in line with visitor policies.

8. Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all that those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

One of the school's governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The School Council seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the staff and governors

9. Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the headteacher in their office. These include files of ideas, stories, poems and prayers, A candle and table cloth is kept behind the piano. Matches are kept in the head's office and secretary's drawer.