



Knights Templar Community Church School and Nursery

Work at it with all your heart

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Collective Worship Policy

<i>Date Approved by the Governing Board</i>	<i>Review Period</i>	<i>Date to be reviewed</i>
<i>September 2025</i>	<i>Bi-Annual</i>	<i>September 2027</i>

Knights Templar Community Church School

In our school our vision shapes all we do:

'Work at it with all your heart'

And is theologically rooted in our core belief:

Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord and each other."

Reflecting our:

- *Passion and commitment as a school to support, encourage and nurture each child to reach their fullest potential*
- *Christian understanding of God, as a loving empowering God who loves each of us as individuals and through his guidance encourages us all to flourish and grow in all aspects of our lives.*
- *Belief in equality and inclusivity in God's wonderful world in which we live, the part we each have to play in protecting it and celebrating life in all of its forms.*

Supported through our Core Christian Values of: Hope, Love and Respect.

Policy Statement

In Knights Templar Community Church School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and learners.

At Knights Templar Community Church School, Collective Worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Collective Worship in our school enables every child and adult to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10). It helps educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Through Collective Worship learners will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the world around them will be given. Learners will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Learners will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all learners, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in our school reflects the shared Methodist and Church of England values and build on that to support all who are part of the school's wider community.

The right of withdrawal

In Knights Templar Community Church School, there are a number of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this is made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the parent asks that a child should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in our school aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support learners and adults in their spiritual growth

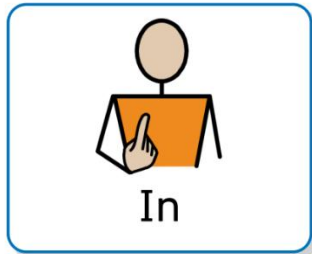
- *Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.*
- *Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.*
- *Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.*
- *Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.*
- *Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.*
- *Offer opportunities to children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.*
- *Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure learners understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.*

How Collective worship is organised at Knights Templar

Collective Worship takes place every day. Each week there is a theme which aims to link our Christian Values with Bible stories and other aspects of the Christian tradition. Other events, Key People and World Religions are also part of Collective Worship. At the start of Collective Worship, we have entry and exit music by significant composers ranging from historical greats to those from modern day. This helps us to be still, quiet, and ready to be reflective for Collective Worship. Worship begins with a candle being lit and the saying of the peace.

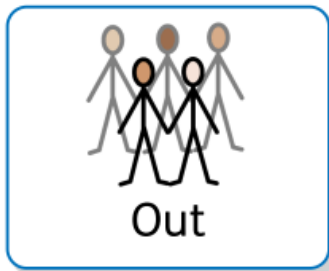
We have incorporated the *In, Out and Up* approach which we encourage as part of our daily collective worship to promote spiritual development. It encourages our learners to explore their inner selves, their relationships with others, and their understanding of the wider world, including their connection to something greater, often framed as God or a higher power.

The three aspects:



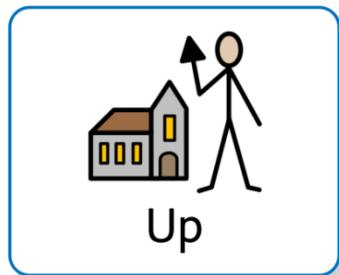
- **Looking In:**

This involves reflecting on one's own feelings, beliefs, and experiences, learning from mistakes, and appreciating personal achievements. It's about self-awareness and understanding one's own identity.



- **Looking Out:**

This focuses on relationships with others and the wider world. It encourages empathy, compassion, and understanding of different perspectives and beliefs. It also involves putting values into action and making positive contributions to the community.



- **Looking Up:**

This involves connecting with something beyond oneself, often through faith, prayer, or reflection on big questions about life's meaning and purpose. It can involve exploring religious teachings, but also extends to a broader search for meaning and connection to something larger.

Why is this important?

This approach to spirituality is seen as essential for developing the "whole child," encompassing social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development. It helps learners to:

- Develop self-awareness and self-esteem
- Build positive relationships
- Cultivate a sense of wonder and awe
- Develop a sense of purpose and meaning in life

- Become more resilient and adaptable
- Contribute positively to society

Monday – Collective Worship. The Christian Value of the week is introduced, and The Big Question linked to the Christian Value is reflected upon and discussed.

Tuesday/Thursday – Class Worship led by the Class Teacher and sometimes the children. These include Cultural Worship which focuses on key people, cultural events, days, or other religious festivals and Wellbeing Worship which provide support for our pupils in dealing with worries and anxiety and the opportunity to reflect upon The British Values.

Wednesday – Collective Worship led by members of the Anglican and/or Methodist Church. This is linked to the Christian Value of the week and children often take an active role for example reading, drama etc.

Friday – Worship Through Song. Singing is an important part of collective worship, and this is a chance to learn new songs and revisit familiar ones, to reflect together on the way that we praise God in worship, and to understand better the words we are singing.

Celebration Worship – Half termly we hold a Celebration Worship which recognises where children have worked with all their heart in: Reading, Writing, Maths and My Happy Mind.

Courageous Advocacy – Each half term the children will learn about the work of an individual who has shown courageous advocacy during their lifetime as part of Class Collective Worship.

In addition, there are **Key Stage Assemblies** and **House Assemblies** termly to support the children to feel a sense of belonging within these different groups within our school.

Leadership

We have developed support and guidance for staff, learners and visitors leading worship. As children move through the school, they are increasingly given opportunities to lead parts of worship both in class and whole school worships.

Planning

Worship themes for the year are planned and shared with all staff and church leaders. These are then planned for by those leading the worships using the guidance provided and links within the plan to relevant websites, stories, music and songs.

Our core Christian values of the school are expressed and celebrated through our collective worship with the hall and each classroom having an area designated for them to be displayed. Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school.

Each classroom has an area for reflection which includes a place to write prayers and a candle which is lit during class worship time. There will also be a bible suitable for the age of children in the class that they can read and is used in class worship. The children discuss what worship means to them and develop what they would like their class worship to feel like. This will be displayed in the worship area too.

Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world through the chosen themes and resources to reflect the diverse world we live in. Opportunities to engage in local community are planned such as donations to the local food bank at Harvest and visiting the local churches for key events on the Christian calendar. There are opportunities to think about those beyond our local community that may need our help and prayers through special themed worships such as Children in Need and World Food Day. We also use the global Christianity resources suggested by the Diocese.

Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured through our curriculum and on our annual RE days, as well as during our worship times.

Parents are invited to join in our worships at key points in the Christian calendar.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, learners and governors in order to grow and develop.

We also welcome the parents' contributions through questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice. Staff and governors also meet with the School Council to evaluate collective worship and suggest ways it can be improved.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all learners. This policy is available on our school website.