



The King's (The Cathedral) School

Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility:	Mr O Pengelly
Ratified By:	Governing Body
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Contents

Purpose and Rationale 3

Christian Vision and Values 3

Aims of Collective Worship..... 3

Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship..... 3

Roles and Responsibilities 4

Inclusion and Right of Withdrawal 5

Monitoring and Evaluation 5

Policy Review 5

Collective Worship Policy

Purpose and Rationale

Collective worship is central to the life and identity of The King's (The Cathedral) School. As a Church of England academy founded within the Cathedral Foundation, the school understands worship to be a distinctive and invitational space in which pupils and adults are encouraged to reflect, wonder, pray and engage with the Christian faith and its impact on individuals and communities.

Collective worship is a shared experience for the whole school family. The presence and active participation of staff alongside pupils demonstrate our commitment to being "many members, but one body" and reinforce the importance of worship as a cornerstone of spiritual flourishing at The King's School. This policy sets out the school's approach to collective worship and explains how it supports the spiritual flourishing of pupils and staff in line with the school's Christian vision, values and statutory responsibilities. As a Church of England school, we are required to have a daily act of worship.

Christian Vision and Values

Collective worship at The King's (The Cathedral) School is rooted in the school's theologically grounded Christian vision:

"Many members, but one body, as it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

This vision shapes the school's aspiration to be "A Family Achieving Excellence", affirming the intrinsic worth of every individual and celebrating the unique contribution each person brings to the life of the community. Worship reflects and reinforces the school's five Christian values of Generosity, Spirituality, Joyfulness, Inclusivity and Excellence, which together provide a shared language for faith, character and community life.

Aims of Collective Worship

Through collective worship, the school aims to:

- Nurture spiritual growth and awareness;
- Provide opportunities for encounter with God through prayer, reflection and scripture;
- Develop understanding of Christian faith within an Anglican framework;
- Reinforce the school's Christian vision and values;
- Foster a strong sense of belonging, unity and mutual care;
- Encourage pupils to reflect upon their responsibilities to others and to the wider world;
- Support pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, morally and personally;
- Provide opportunities for stillness, reflection, contemplation and engagement with questions of meaning, purpose and identity.

Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational. Pupils and staff from all faith backgrounds and none are welcomed and encouraged to engage at a level appropriate to them in a spirit of respect and openness.

Collective worship takes place through:

- Whole-school acts of worship;
- Form-based worship and reflection;
- Year group and Key Stage acts of worship;
- House worship and gatherings;

- Chaplaincy-led worship
- Cathedral services and other significant Christian festivals and celebrations;
- Pupil-led worship and student leadership opportunities.

Themes for collective worship are planned throughout the year and typically draw upon:

- The Christian calendar and major festivals;
- Biblical texts and Christian teaching;
- The school's vision and values;
- Contemporary issues and moral questions;
- Local, national and global issues of justice, service and responsibility.

Collective worship follows the **GERS** structure commonly used within Church of England schools:

- **Gathering** – creating a sense of welcome, stillness and community;
- **Engaging** – exploring a theme, story or question;
- **Responding** – reflection, prayer, silence or creative response;
- **Sending** – encouraging pupils and adults to live out what they have encountered.

This structure supports worship that is accessible, meaningful and consistent whilst allowing flexibility and creativity appropriate to the age and context of those participating.

Roles and Responsibilities

School Staff (including Form Tutors, Academic Heads of Year and Heads of House)

School staff play a vital role in ensuring that collective worship remains a central part of school life and contributes to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.

Staff will:

- Support and uphold the school's Christian vision and values through their participation in collective worship;
- Facilitate daily collective worship during form time using the agreed GERS structure;
- Coach and support pupils to lead worship effectively through rota systems, paired presentations or designated Collective Worship Representatives;
- Ensure that worship is purposeful, reflective, inclusive and appropriately resourced;
- Accompany tutor groups to whole-school collective worship and Cathedral services;
- Actively supervise pupil behaviour and engagement during worship;
- Promote worship as a shared experience for the whole school family;
- Reinforce collective worship themes through pastoral work, house activities and wider school life.

School Chaplain and School Leaders

The School Chaplain, working alongside senior leaders, has responsibility for the strategic leadership, coordination and development of collective worship.

The Chaplain and school leaders will:

- Ensure that collective worship reflects the school's Christian vision, values and Anglican foundation;
- Plan, coordinate and lead acts of collective worship;
- Develop, publish and communicate a rota for the delivery of collective worship, ensuring clarity regarding themes, leadership responsibilities and worship formats throughout the academic year;

- Provide resources, guidance and training for staff;
- Develop opportunities for pupil leadership and participation;
- Foster partnerships with Peterborough Cathedral, local clergy and visiting speakers;
- Promote worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspirational;
- Monitor the frequency and quality of collective worship through learning walks, observations and pupil voice activities;
- Gather and evaluate feedback from pupils and staff, including through the school's biennial Faith and Worship Survey;
- Use findings from monitoring and evaluation to inform school improvement and SIAMS self-evaluation.

Governing Body

The Governing Body has strategic oversight of collective worship and will:

- Ensure that collective worship remains consistent with the school's Christian vision, values and statutory responsibilities;
- Receive reports on the quality and impact of collective worship;
- Review monitoring evidence and survey findings;
- Provide support, scrutiny and challenge to school leaders in line with the school's wider policy monitoring arrangements;
- Monitor the effectiveness of collective worship in supporting the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.

Inclusion and Right of Withdrawal

The school recognises that pupils and staff come from a wide range of faith and cultural backgrounds. Collective worship is designed so that all can participate through reflection and respectful presence.

In accordance with current legislation, parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Any such requests will be considered sensitively by the school and appropriate supervision arrangements will be made. Members of staff also retain the legal right to withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The frequency, quality and impact of collective worship will be reviewed regularly through:

- Learning walks and observations;
- Pupil voice activities and focus groups;
- Staff feedback;
- Evaluation by the Chaplain and Senior Leadership Team;
- The biennial Faith and Worship Survey;
- Governor monitoring and scrutiny.

This ongoing evaluation ensures that collective worship continues to support spiritual flourishing and remains aligned with the school's Christian vision, values and SIAMS expectations

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's policy review cycle and at least every three years.