

Kings' Forest Primary School

Policy	<i>Collective Worship</i>
Author/Person Responsible	<i>Helen Porter Headteacher</i>
Date of Ratification	<i>March 2023</i>
Review Group	<i>Quality of Education</i>
Ratification Group	<i>Full Governing Body</i>
Review Frequency	<i>Annually</i>
Review Date	<i>March 2024</i>
Previous Review Amendments/Notes	
Related Policies	<i>Religious Education.</i>
Chair of Governors Signature	

Distribution List

- **Full Governing Body**
 - Ratification at Full Governing Body
 - Review is the responsibility of the Quality of Education committee
- **Internal**
 - Kings' Forest Primary School Web Site
 - Staff Meeting
- **Paper Copies**
 - Staff Room
 - Head teachers office
- **Internet Copies**
 - Kings' Forest Primary School Web Site www.kingsforestschoo.co.uk

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices:	Collective Worship	DATE:	
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:		EIA APPROVED BY:	

Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication)		
Gender reassignment (transsexual)		
Marriage and civil partnership		
Pregnancy and maternity		
Racial groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)		
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)		
Sex (male, female)		
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)		

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

INTRODUCTION

Assembly is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. At Kings' Forest Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, therefore assemblies are led by senior members of staff and follow an agreed plan which incorporates work on the school values and also key religious and social events. The assembly plan ensures that the British values of democracy; rules of law; liberty and respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs are key messages which run throughout assembly themes.

AIMS

It is our aim at Kings' Forest School that collective worship should: -

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and to those things that concern and are of value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, the local and the world wide community with important occasions, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Developing a sense of community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of reflection for all pupils or separate acts of reflection for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Head Teacher who may delegate some of this responsibility to the Deputy Head teacher and the RE subject leader.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in **DfE circular 1/94** which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, eg The Good Samaritan, Shrove Tuesday, Easter.
- Sharing the 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.

It is important that the highest expectations of behaviour are maintained during acts of assembly and/or collective worship and the children are respectful and reflective. In order to support this it is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that the children:

- Enter and leave the hall in silence and are encouraged to listen to the music which is playing.
- Children sit boy next to girl to ensure that the children sit quietly and listen well.
- Come into the hall wearing the correct school uniform and are tidy and well presented.

It is the responsibility of all adults within the assembly to model respectful and reflective behaviour to the children.

REFLECTION TECHNIQUES

We use a variety of methods including:

- Closing eyes to aid thinking and concentration.
- Lighting a candle, or other device, to begin a story and to provide a focus of attention.

- Using flowers, plants or other natural objects to help think about the beauty of the world.
- Using art and artefacts to aid reflection on human achievement.

SINGING/MUSIC

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We select our songs/music carefully to match the theme.

Acts of Collective Worship at Kings' Forest take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might involve admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence who are worthy of honour and events which are worthy of celebration.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Although we seek to be an inclusive community 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 Head Teacher/Deputy Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school would create a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work would be set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head Teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.