



**Earley St Peter's**  
CE Primary School

# Policy for Collective Worship

Date: April 2024

Review: April 2026



Kindness



Honesty



Service



Forgiveness



Respect

*Building strong foundations for the future*

## EARLEY ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

#### (1) Aim

The aim of this policy is to explain how Collective Worship is organised at Earley St Peter's Primary School within The Keys Academy Trust.

#### (2) Introduction

Legislation, including the Education Act 1944 and the Education Reform Act 1988, requires every school to hold a daily Act of Worship or several acts of Collective Worship, which shall be mainly Christian in character. As Church of England Schools, we believe that Collective Worship plays an important part in children's social, moral, cultural and spiritual development. We acknowledge our Christian foundation whilst valuing the contributions of other faiths.

#### (3) School's Christian Vision

##### **Building Strong Foundations**

The right foundations allow future potential to be unlocked and enable all in our school community to flourish. At Earley St Peter's, we want to give all our pupils strong foundations for the future.

We want them to

- Be curious and creative
- Be confident and resilient
- Retain and build on their knowledge



The Bible talks about the importance of good foundations. Jesus tells Peter 'you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church' (Matthew 16.18). We also hear the parable of the wise man and the foolish man. Better to build your house on a rock than on the sand. (Matthew 7.24-27).

With Jesus as a role model, our Key Code is **built on** the Christian values of

- Kindness
- Respect
- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Service

It is underpinned by the Bible verse from Matthew 7 v12:

**"Treat people the same way you want them to treat you"**

#### (4) Earley St. Peter's Christian Vision and Values in Collective Worship

It is important that all members of Earley St. Peter's C of E Primary School can confidently speak about our Vision and Values and that these are central to our Collective Worship. This will be done in an age appropriate way. To achieve this, the vision and values must be the starting point of all acts of worship. The table below indicates how the school's vision and values apply to the Collective Worship Policy.

School Vision and Values	Collective Worship
Strong foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective worship gives pupils a strong foundation in understanding Christianity and aspects of other faiths.</li> <li>• Collective worship helps to build and develop children's character by giving them a good moral and ethical foundation enabling them to contribute positively to both the school and wider community.</li> </ul>
Be creative and curious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning collective worship, teachers and pupils think carefully about how to deliver the theme in a creative and engaging way.</li> <li>• Collective worship is designed to raise questions in pupils' minds and spark their curiosity.</li> </ul>
Be confident and resilient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils' participation in planning and leading collective worship develops their self-confidence.</li> <li>• Some collective worship themes will address the idea of resilience e.g. New Beginnings, Saying goodbye, Anti-bullying Week, Journeys, Perseverance, Lent.</li> </ul>
Be knowledgeable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective worship should develop pupils' knowledge of a wide range of themes including the Bible, the Liturgical year, Christian festivals and celebrations, festivals and celebrations from other faiths and significant historical figures within different faith traditions.</li> </ul>
Kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many collective worship themes will include discussion about how we can show kindness to others e.g. Anti-bullying week, Friends, Christian Aid Week, Forgiveness, Possessions and Sharing.</li> </ul>
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect is central to collective worship and is demonstrated by pupil engagement and the expectations of attendance of staff members.</li> <li>• Collective worship should develop children's respect and reverence towards God.</li> <li>• Many collective worship themes will include discussion about how we can show respect to others e.g. Listening, the Key Code, Christian Aid Week, Family.</li> </ul>
Honesty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collective worship, pupils are regularly invited to reflect honestly on their own actions.</li> <li>• A number of collective worship themes will include discussion about how we should be honest and tell the truth e.g. Truth, Family, Friends, Rules.</li> </ul>

Forgiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils are given regular opportunities through prayer to ask for forgiveness for things they have done if they would like to.</li> <li>• Pupils are given regular opportunities to consider if there are people they need to forgive and how they might do this, and to reflect on things they may have done which need to be forgiven by others.</li> </ul>
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many collective worship themes will include discussion about how we can serve others e.g. Christian Aid Week, Family, Friends, Harvest, Possessions and sharing, Helping others, Easter.</li> </ul>

## **(5) Key Points**

### **(i) Aims of Collective Worship**

The aims of collective worship in our school are:

- to build and develop children's character by giving them a strong moral and ethical foundation enabling them to contribute positively to both the school and wider community;
- to provide a strong foundation in understanding the nature of God and enable children to worship God in three persons as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- to enable children to explore, and reflect on, spiritual and moral issues, to deepen their own beliefs and explore the beliefs of others;
- to encourage children to worship by creating an atmosphere conducive to silent reflection, inner response and active participation;
- to develop children's knowledge and understanding of the big story of the Bible and its key concepts e.g. salvation, incarnation;
- to give children practical experience of prayer; the importance of prayer is explained and modelled;
- to explore emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, fear, tolerance, understanding forgiveness and reverence;
- to celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of life and living and to share moments of awe and wonder;
- to help children develop respect for and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices from their own.

### **(ii) Withdrawing pupils from Collective Worship**

The Law requires that every child should attend an act of collective worship on every School day. If any parent wishes to exercise their legal right to withdraw a child from collective worship, the Governors of the school will expect parents to discuss this with the Head of School. The Head of School is both responsible for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that suitable arrangements are made for any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **(iii) Planning**

Collective worship at Earley St. Peter's is planned around weekly themes. The Collective Worship Coordinator and the Vicar meet at the end of each academic year to review these themes and map out the themes for the following year. Detailed collective worship plans are then written for each term by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

The school has a worship team which is led by the Vicar and Collective Worship Co-ordinator and consists of pupil representatives from each class. The worship team meets approximately every three weeks to discuss collective worship and to plan a collective worship which they lead at the end of each half-term.

#### **(iv) Content**

Every act of collective worship should include the elements of lighting the three candles, music, clear theme and purpose, focal point, Biblical reference, time for reflection, prayer, symbolic action and take away thought (see Appendix 1).

Over the course of the year, the weekly themes are designed to incorporate the following topics and concepts:

- the Christian values of kindness, respect, honesty, forgiveness and service;
- the life, teachings and miracles of Jesus;
- stories, characters and themes from elsewhere in the Bible;
- the main festivals in the cycle of the Church's year;
- moral stories, festivals and celebrations from other faiths;
- the school's key code;
- British values (the rule of law, democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance).

In addition to daily acts of collective worship, throughout the school year pupils attend six services in church which are planned and led by different year groups. Each term ends with a Communion Service.

The trustees hope that a wide variety of people will be invited to lead acts of Worship and that parents and members of the local community will be invited to share in our Worship.

Collective Worship will be monitored by the school's Collective Worship subject leader, SLT and the foundation governors.

## Collective Worship

### Key elements for a class/key stage collective worship

Item	Key Elements
1	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>Reflective music on entry and exit</p> <p>Hymn/song relevant to theme (words prepared on screen)</p>
2	<p><b>Theme</b> – linked to liturgical year, school life, class work and is developed throughout the collective worship. Contributes to pupils living and understanding of Christian way of life</p>
3	<p><b>Focal point</b> – matched to liturgical year/season/theme</p>
4	<p><b>Biblical reading</b></p> <p>Piece of relevant and appropriate scripture – psalm/reading/verses shared in a variety of ways – (DRAMA, DANCE, MIME, SONG)</p>
5	<p><b>Planned with a clear purpose</b></p> <p>Planned, prepared and delivered by the teacher and children with links to our Christian Vision and values made explicit, with a clear purpose using appropriate resources</p>
6	<p><b>Time for Reflection/silence</b></p> <p>Could be a visual/musical/stimulus</p>
7	<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>The Lord’s Prayer /school prayer/prayers written by teachers or pupils</p> <p>Prayer boxes and daily class prayer</p>
8	<p><b>Symbolic action</b> – lighting a candle/facing the cross</p>
9	<p><b>Includes a “take away” message</b> – for children to think about and reflect on during the rest of the school day/week</p>