



**Alder Grove**  
Church of England Primary School



# Policy for Collective Worship

Date: Autumn 2020

Review: Summer 2022

## ALDER GROVE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

#### **(1) Aim**

The aim of this policy is to explain how Collective Worship is organised at Alder Grove Church of England 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**

Our vision for Alder Grove School is about the importance of roots. Just as a tree cannot grow to be healthy and strong without good roots, so we believe that children need the right conditions to grow and flourish. Our school community at Alder Grove is rooted in the following values:

- Kindness
- Service
- Truthfulness
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Perseverance

We see these values in the life of Jesus, and Christians choose to live their lives rooted in him. At Alder Grove, we want to help all our children, whatever their faith background, to grow deep roots which will enable them and the whole community to be strong and healthy learners, and to care for each other.

As we live out these values, we help each other to flourish and grow. Our vision is not just about individuals but about a whole community, so we emphasise the importance of serving each other, and treating each other as we would like to be treated, and we also believe in the importance of caring for the world around us.

When the roots are healthy, we will see fruit growing:

'They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season' (Psalm 1.3).

The right roots will allow our children to fulfil their potential in all areas of life and "live life in all its fullness" (John 10.10). Our approach to learning is rooted in educating for

- Wisdom, knowledge and skills
- Confidence, self-belief and success
- Hope, aspiration and resilience

#### **(4) Alder Grove's Christian Vision and Values in Collective Worship**

It is important that all members of Alder Grove 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
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>
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>
Truthfulness	<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>
Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on choices – to choose to be courageous and do the right thing, not the easy thing and learn about famous people who showed courage e.g. Florence Nightingale.</li><li>• Pupils learn stories from the Bible which reflect courage e.g. David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Psalm 23.</li><li>• Pupils consider courage as inner strength, to be the best they can be</li></ul>
Perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils are encouraged to keep going in their learning, friendships, sports and interests even when the going gets tough.</li><li>• Pupils will reflect on Bible verses and stories with perseverance as a theme.</li></ul>

#### **(3) 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 Headteacher. The Headteacher 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 Alder Grove is planned around weekly themes. The Collective Worship Co-ordinator and local clergy 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.

### **(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, service, truthfulness, forgiveness, courage and perseverance;
- 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 services in church. Each term ends with a Communion Service for children in Key Stage 2.

We aim to involve a variety of people to lead acts of Worship and to invite parents and members of the local community 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	<b>Music</b>  Reflective music on entry and exit  Hymn/song relevant to theme (words prepared on screen)
2	<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
3	<b>Focal point</b> – matched to liturgical year/season/theme
4	<b>Biblical reading</b>  Piece of relevant and appropriate scripture – psalm/reading/verses shared in a variety of ways – (DRAMA, DANCE, MIME, SONG)
5	<b>Planned with a clear purpose</b>  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
6	<b>Time for Reflection/silence</b>  Could be a visual/musical/stimulus
7	<b>Prayer</b>  The Lord’s Prayer /school prayer/prayers written by teachers or pupils  Prayer boxes and daily class prayer
8	<b>Symbolic action</b> – lighting a candle/facing the cross
9	<b>Includes a “take away” message</b> – for children to think about and reflect on during the rest of the school day/week