**Orleton and Kimbolton Collective Worship Policies**

**Orleton and Kimbolton Church of England Primary School**

Last Updated: September 2025

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our vision is rooted in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: ‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.’ To this end, and in order to create a positive learning environment, it is essential that children and staff respect one another and behave positively towards one another. It is important to us that children in our school realise the positive impact of honesty, respect, happiness and friendship on how they grow and flourish as a learning community. Positive behaviour is therefore central to our core vision and values. In practice for us, this means that we expect all children and staff to:

• be kind

• be the best they can be

• be courageous

• be resilient

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

**Policy Statement**

In Orleton and Kimbolton 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 pupils.

At Orleton and Kimbolton 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.

Through Collective Worship pupils 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, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils 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 (*and other faiths[[1]](#footnote-1)*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Church of England Guidance**

Our collective worship policy a draws on guidance from the Church of England [[3]](#footnote-3). This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

**Legal Requirements**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, 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 a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in Orleton and Kimbolton C of E Primary Schools should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

# **The right of withdrawal**

In Orleton and Kimbolton there are sometimes children whose families are members of another faith, and many 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 should be made clear from the first time parents are shown around the school, 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 and1988 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 pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

# **Guiding Principles**

Collective worship in Orleton and Kimbolton aims to:

* Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
* Support pupils 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 andengaged 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.
* Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
* 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 all 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. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
* Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils 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.

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# **Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation**

This policy was developed and consulted on with our Governors, staff, Vicar and our Worship Committees in each school.

We ensure that our Christian Values are reflected in all of our new policies and that our vision and values are shared on our website and beyond.

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# **How Collective worship is organised**

**Leadership**

* Worship is organised by our Head Teacher. We have regular visitors to support in our Worship including members of local churches. Daily worship is led by the headteacher, members of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams like Open the Book (Orleton).
* We share with these visitors our Christian Vision and our themes for Worship each half term.

Corinthians 16:13-14: ‘Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.’ We also share how we plan with them below.

**Planning**

**These are our Worship Values**

Autumn 1 – Love

Autumn 2 – Alertness

Spring 1 – Faith

Spring 2 – Courage

Summer 1 – Strength

Summer 2 – Love

Love tops and tails our Worship each year because this is our guiding principle and message.

Each half term we share a bible story from the old and new testament that links to our worship theme for that half term. In Autumn 1 we focus on God’s love for us and the love of those around us, in Summer 2 we focus on love for ourselves and love for our planet.

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| Term and theme | Old Testament link | New Testament Link |
| Love | Creation Story | The good Samaritan  |
| Alertness | Kane and Able | The birth of Jesus |
| Faith | Noah’s Ark | Feeding of the five thousand |
| Courage | David and Goliath  | The Easter Story |
| Strength | Moses (early life) | Ascension  |
| Love | The prodigal son | Jesus healing the sick |

* At the end of each half term we Worship in our church. These service celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension (Kimbolton) and the ending of our school year.
* How explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
* We use a range and variety of materials including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
* We explore the Trinity throughout the year
* We encourage spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

**Organisation**

* Monday -Whole school collective worship based on our values led by the Headteacher, visiting Church for Songs of Praise once a month
* Tuesday - Open the Book – external church group alternating with whole school assembly led by one of our staff at Orleton. Staff led Worship at Kimbolton linked to our Monday Worship
* Wednesday - Songs of Praise – whole school singing Kimbolton. Key Stage Worship linked to our value from Monday at Kimbolton
* Thursday – Songs of praise – Orleton. Church Led worship / inspirational stories.
* Friday- Celebration Worship
* We use ‘one minute worships’ for those undertaking intervention groups during worship times. We try to vary groups to ensure children miss the minimum amount of worship each week
* Children are seated in rows and in year groups
* They are settled with a raised hand and we always say good morning to each other in the traditional way
* Kimbolton Worship from 10.45 – 11 and Orleton 9.15 – 9.30

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# **Roles and Responsibilities**

* The governing body – Ensure that we are following our collective worship policy, approve the policy and monitor
* The headteacher and the senior leadership team – to design our worship alongside or worship committee
* Clergy and church partners – to support in the delivery of worship and offer advice and guidance when needed
* Teaching and support staff – to help deliver worship
* Pupils – to participate and feedback regarding the worship to ensure it is relevant and engaging

**Formative Assessment (AfL**) - (monitoring the quality of worship in school)

Worship leaders will feedback any improvements needed after individual worships to the planning team.

**Summative Assessment** – (evaluating the impact of worship in school)

We make judgements about our progress as a school once a year in our annual worship review. In addition we review the planning and delivery for each term’s worship as part of the planning process for the next term. This will be done using the grading descriptors and pupil & staff reviews.

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years in line with the launch of new RE and Worship curricula.

Last reviewed; September 26

Date of next review; September 29

Approved by Governors

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# **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

# **Disseminating the policy**

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

Date of last review:

Headteacher signed: Date:

Chair of Governors signed: Date:

1. Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship [↑](#footnote-ref-3)