

**Collective Worship**

**Rationale**

Collective worship is an opportunity for the school community to reflect upon, celebrate and experience the spiritual aspects of being alive. As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school worship should distinctly reflect the principles and practices of the Church of England as we assume are outlined in its trust deed of 1845.

Collective worship aims to fulfil all statutory requirements. More importantly, it tries to give pupils the opportunity to worship God and to experience and understand the major aspects of the Christian Faith. It is also designed to be inclusive and to respect the integrity of all members of the school community through the development of shared values and experiences. Collective worship attempts to complement and expand upon that which is taught in R.E. and P.S.H.C.E.

**Aims**

Collective Worship will:

• develop a sense of community in bringing pupils together to celebrate the shared values and ethos of the school.

• celebrate difference and diversity where appropriate, recognising the beliefs and values of others.

• enable pupils to reflect on Christian values and on their own beliefs, offering space for reflection, meditation and silence.

• provide opportunities to worship God.

• contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and emotional development of pupils.

• have a sense of occasion.

• to develop feelings such as awe and wonder and heighten their awareness of questions relating to the mysteries of life.

**The Headteacher will:**

• ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met, including a clear statement on Collective Worship in the school prospectus.

• ensure that Collective Worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school and is based on the principles of the Church of England.

• set high expectations and monitor Collective Worship, supporting individual teachers when necessary.

• ensure that Collective Worship is planned and delivered according to the agreed themes.

• keep up-to-date with the latest documents and current developments in Collective Worship.

• work closely with the Church community and invite visitors into school to lead, enhance and enrich Collective Worship.

• encourage a whole-school approach, ensuring parents, governors and staff are kept informed of new developments, changes, resources etc.

• maintain the SMSC/Values for Life section of the school website.

**Governors will:**

• uphold the Christian foundations of the school. Foundation Governors will havea particular responsibility for ensuring that the Christian ethos is reflected inCollective Worship.

• ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met.

• be well-informed through the leadership of the Headteacher.

• support the staff and Headteacher in implementing the school’s policy for Collective Worship.

• attend, take part in, monitor and lead Collective Worship when appropriate.

**All Staff Members will:**

• lead daily worship on a rota basis.

• follow the planning cycle for Collective Worship.

• use lit candles to mark the beginning of worship when appropriate.

• use music to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere as the children enter and leave Collective Worship.

• choose appropriate scripture passages to reflect the age and aptitude of the children.

• provide time for quiet reflection, asking the children to close their eyes to aid thinking and concentration.

• encourage the children to ask questions and reflect on what they see and hear.

• provide a variety of experiences and activities, employing teaching methods and resources that allow all pupils (irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, academic ability etc.) to have equal access to Collective Worship.

• provide opportunities for children to make links and connections between different areas of worship and life.

**Children will:**

• take part in a daily act of worship.

• begin to explore and understand the beauty, mystery and power of the world.

• celebrate worship through prayer, song, drama and art.

• have opportunities to celebrate what is good about life in our school, our community, our homes, our surroundings and to share our success and failures.

• be given opportunities to share their thoughts appropriate to the occasion.

• be given opportunities for quiet reflection in shared moments of stillness.

• have opportunities to celebrate, give thanks and share emotions such as joy, hope, friendship, concern and forgiveness.

• begin to understand that concern for others is part of belonging to a caring community.

• be given opportunities to plan and lead Collective Worship.

**Parents/carers will:**

• be well-informed of the Christian foundations of the school.

• be encouraged to attend Collective Worship at special times during the school year.

**Legal requirements:**

• all schools must provide a daily act of worship.

• Collective Worship must be held on the school premises. Church services cannot be counted as the daily act of worship.

• in Church Schools, Collective Worship will be based on the foundations and principles of the Church of England.

• parents must be informed that the school is a Church school and this should be clearly stated in the school prospectus and in the policy for Collective Worship.

• parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship (1998 Education Act). If a child is withdrawn, the school will provide an alternative.

• schools cannot withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. If it is necessary to withdraw pupils, e.g. for music lessons, those pupils should be provided with an opportunity to worship at another stage in the day.

• teachers/staff have a right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

There is formal and informal evaluation of collective worship and in this we follow the guidelines set out by the Diocese of York in ‘Worship Works’ <http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/uploads/attachment/2096/worship-works.pdf>

It is important that the following are monitored regularly:

• the clear policy, as agreed by Governors, is upholding the school ethos statement

• the planning of worship is reflecting the school ethos statement.

• the agreed policy is implemented.

• Worship is central to the life of the school.

• regular provision of worship is on a daily basis.

• all staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools.

• staff appointed are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school is terms of Collective Worship

• well-balanced themes are planned throughout the year.

• links are made with the local parish and community.

• resources are available to support worship.

• finances are available to develop school worship.

Reporting back to the governing body should be part of this process, as it would be with any other curriculum area.

**A Checklist for Individual Acts of Worship**

The key features of an act of worship should be evaluated:

• Is it well planned and in keeping with the school’s policy?

• Is it inclusive? Can anyone take part regardless of faith background or academic ability?

• Is there a focal point? E.g. a religious symbol such as a cross, a more general spiritual symbol such as a candle, perhaps a picture on an overhead screen: a religious painting or a photograph of a beautiful scene?

• How effectively is the atmosphere created? Is the physical space and the space in the day marked as special or sacred through the varied use of music, lighting, seating, singing, etc.

• Is a spiritual stimulus provided? Over time, is there sufficient variety? For some people a spiritual moment will be enhanced by poetry, for some art, or dance, or a story, or a news item etc. Is this variety reflected? Are different cultures represented through the choice of material? Is worship in keeping with the Anglican tradition?

• Is time for personal reflection provided?

• Is time for a personal response given?

• Have pupils been challenged to think about their own beliefs and actions in the light of what they have heard?

This policy outlines the principles on which Collective Worship takes place at Crayke Church of England Primary School.