



Our vision: A Caring Christian Community where children thrive; enthusiasm and excellence lead to high aspirations and outstanding achievements

## Collective Worship Policy 2017

*This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision. It supports and reinforces the aims of Croft Church of England Primary School, valuing all children equally.*

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are set out, clearly, in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Worship:** can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worth-ship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

**School Assembly:** is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

**Corporate Worship:** is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

**Collective Worship:** is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

*NB. We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.*



## **RATIONALE - LEGAL**

- The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable, but the legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools - including church schools - must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

## **RATIONALE - RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL**

### **Collective Worship:-**

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion; These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding;
- fosters a reverential attitude to God, the father, the son and the holy spirit.
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances;
- provides an opportunity to participate in religious worship;
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important;
- brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own;
- is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge;
- offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama;
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**

*"Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and*



*to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.” (DfEE - Circular 1/94)*

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Croft Church of England Primary School.

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion.
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish.
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)
- We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.
- During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

**The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-**

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God;
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer;
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit;
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude;
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness;
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation;
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life;
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material;
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world;
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others;
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them;



- help children distinguish between right and wrong;
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility;
- celebrate individual and collective achievements;
- develop a sense of community within the school;
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

**The Governing Body** is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

**The School Development Plan** can include a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review concerning the following:

- Themes and approaches
- Staff training and support
- Development of resources
- Pupil participation and response

**The Collective Worship Co-ordinator** has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

**Monitoring and evaluating** Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place by the appointed date

## **ORGANISATION**

Daily acts of Collective Worship takes place in the school hall from 10.30am - 10.45 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Monday and Friday Collective Worship is 9.05-9.30 to allow us to invite parents and members of the community to join us.

Each week the Tuesday assembly worship follows a planned theme based around the guidance given by the Board of Education at Leicester Diocese. The themes are planned a term in advance. The structure of assemblies may include music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and a reminder each day of the theme for the week which may have an accompanying 'saying.' Our Thursday assembly is based upon the Big



Story of the bible and is undertaken by our school 'Worship Wizards' who plan (with the help of the collective worship lead) and deliver the worship. Wednesday worship is a singing assembly where the children praise God through the medium of song. Monday's collective worship begins with the school Christian Song, celebrates the pupils who have shone in the previous week and introduces the weeks Christian value with a story or demonstration of how this relates to the teachings of Jesus and the bible. Friday is our good work assembly, we also award our Christian value awards for children who have demonstrated the value during the week, we finish with reflection and the Lords prayer.

Monday	Whole School	HT	Celebration and Christian Values
Tuesday	Whole School	Teachers/Rev Constable	Worship using the diocesan theme of the week.
Wednesday	Whole School	Teachers	Hymn practice with brief act of worship
Thursday	Whole School	Worship Wizards	Big Story of the bible
Friday	Whole School	HT	Celebrating Achievement / class assemblies

Parents are encouraged to attend Monday assemblies, special assemblies and class-led acts of worship on Fridays, particularly if their children are taking part.

The school worships in church on the following occasions; Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We also take opportunities to attend church for other community events such as Angel Day.

Reverend Constable, Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

## ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

*"There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."*

### **Atmosphere -**

is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly



are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A covered table with a candle helps to set the scene.

**Music -**

is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme. Pupils' attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation/ description may be given in the Hymn Practice.

**Stories and talks -**

are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues

**Songs -**

are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two are used at each assembly, relative to the theme and there is sometimes percussion accompaniment provided by the children. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the overhead projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

**Prayer and reflection -**

are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer and children's prayers may be used. A large candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response.

**Scripture -**

sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

**Presentation** --sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.



## CONTENT

**Planning** for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Plans and schedules are approved by the Head and ratified by the Governing Body. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued. The Music Co-ordinator collaborates in the selection of songs/hymns,

**Themes** might have a specific religious base such as 'the early Christian Church' or 'miracles of Jesus,' or they may wish to reflect a theme common to all religions such as 'creation.' or be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'caring and sharing.' Themes are closely related to the school community and are often illustrated by stories of human endeavour.

**Links with R.E. and the Curriculum** are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. 'Caring' = 'Florence Nightingale' = 'Victorians'. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

***N.B. No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.***



## RESOURCES

- Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.
- Candle and stand.
- Selection of religious artifacts.
- Religious/informative websites.
- Selection of assembly topic books for teachers.
- Selection of assembly song books.
- Piano/Instruments/Music/CDs with spiritual, classical, folk, ethnic.
- Overhead projector/digital projector and other IT equipment.

## RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the Diocesan planning sheet, the Worship Wizards have their own planning sheets.

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the children through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives;
- observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest;
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal;
- comments from parents, visitors and governors;
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day;
- self-evaluation/comment by the teacher, on the daily planning sheet.
- Pupil evaluation of an assembly each week.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

Formal evaluation takes place with the whole staff once every half-term.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. If this option was requested pupils would be fully supervised in another part of the school.





## **MULTICULTURALISM**

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school, e.g. Christian, Muslim, etc. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged. The children all undertake a visit to a place of faith each year where they can observe an act of worship.

## **SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES AND VISITORS**

Within a Christian context, special assemblies are held for Harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Easter, and End of the School Year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead assemblies.

## **ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR**

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the head teacher and foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in School Development Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

## **REVIEW**

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.



Signed by the Chairman of Governors..... *Nik Watts* ...

Dated *12/10/2017*