

Collective Worship Policy

"Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them." Matthew 18:20-21

School Vision

At Crookham Infant School we aim to make learning irresistible so that as Team Crookham we all develop the life-long learning habits of resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity through exploring together the loving invitation of Jesus to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10. Our vision stems from our Christian foundation and is firmly rooted in our values: Love God, Love Others, Love Learning.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and provision for Collective Worship at Crookham CE Aided Infant School. It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff, governors and the Vicar of Christ Church, Church Crookham.

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a gathering of the Team Crookham school community, where children and adults are given the opportunity to:

- Worship God
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs (as well as those of others)
- Be encouraged to participate and respond through active involvement in presentation or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes

In accordance with the school Trust Deed and with statutory requirements, Collective Worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life and integral to the broad and balanced curriculum to which the children are entitled.

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim in gathering daily as a Church School family in Collective Worship is well expressed in the words of The Way Ahead, (a statement on the mission of Church Schools), namely to "nourish those of the Christian faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those who have no faith". Therefore, we set out to develop the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social flourishing of all our pupils regardless of their background, and through acts of worship that embed our Vision and Values, to celebrate our uniqueness and diversity alongside the shared understanding that binds us together as Team Crookham.

Principles of Collective Worship

When planning and delivering Collective Worship we are mindful of the principles set out in key guidance listed below in the references section. These principles are well expressed in the Guildford Diocesan guidelines as follows:

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Worship should always:

- Be well planned, benefitting from long term plans which have drawn on the expertise of staff, clergy and the local Christian community.
- Be thoughtfully delivered in an age appropriate manner. All pupils should feel included and involved, regardless of ability, religion or culture.
- Have as its central focus the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Be both an educational and an inspirational experience.
- Underpin the Christian values of the school.
- Offer opportunities for spiritual development and growth through experiences of stillness, worship and reflection.
- Be participatory - inviting pupils to join in with prayer, thought, reflection and silence.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship, as can be seen from the typical timetable below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School	Worship in Song	Whole School Open the Book	Class based or Whole School	Whole School

Collective Worship is carefully planned by the RE Manager and Headteacher with input from our children through the Worship Team, Vicar, and regular visitors such as our Open the Book team.

Themes which are particularly important to us as a school are noted below, indicating where they link particularly strongly to the Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, in **bold**:

- Our Vision -the characteristics of irresistible learning, aiming for excellence in all we do in fullness of life, **educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills**
- Our Values - Love God, Love Others, Love Learning,
- Relationships Education - our curriculum promotes the overarching value love, as we look at caring for ourselves and others and building positive relationships - **educating for dignity and respect**
- The Liturgical Year - joining with the parish of Christ Church, **educating for hope and aspiration**
- Learning from the Bible - our Open the Book team and Vicar support us in understanding key Bible characters, events and messages
- Big Questions - we encourage thinking skills, an exploration of challenging social and moral issues, values that bind our society (British Values - democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance), **educating for community and living well together**

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We are sensitive to the fact that every spiritual journey is different, and mindful of the needs of all our children, considering carefully when it is appropriate for individuals and groups to move from classroom based to whole school acts of Collective Worship.

Promoting high quality impactful Collective Worship

Our school has a Worship Team comprised of Year 2 pupils supported by the RE Manager who contribute to the planning, delivery and evaluation of our school worship. To ensure that our Collective Worship is of high quality and impactful we give careful consideration to the following:

- Making the purpose/theme clear and developed
- Spiritual growth opportunities such as prayer, reflection, quiet, moments of awe and wonder
- Respecting the integrity and well-being of individuals, putting at ease
- Creating an appropriate atmosphere through a sense of order on entering/leaving, a well-resourced focal point, use of music or other resource often chosen by our Worship Team
- Resourcing to engage age appropriately visually, in music, movement, prayer or other form of participation
- Strengthening our community through the involvement and attendance of staff, visitors, parents, governors, clergy
- Reaffirming our values and message
- Evaluating the impact as we grow together as Team Crookham

Responsibility and Leadership

It is the collective responsibility of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and RE Manager, supported by the named Governor for RE and Collective Worship and the Foundation Governors to lead by example in implementing the school vision and upholding the school values through the delivery of high quality Collective Worship in line with legal and diocesan requirements.

Monitoring and Review

The RE Manager, supported by the Headteacher and named RE/Collective Worship governor, is responsible for:

- Ensuring Collective Worship is planned for and appropriate in content, in line with statutory, Church of England and Guildford Diocesan guidance
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality of Collective Worship and its impact
- Ensuring that records and resources are maintained and monitored
- Reviewing the policy for Collective Worship annually

Strategies used to evaluate the impact and quality of Collective Worship include:

- Observation of children's attentiveness and engagement during a worship session
- Regular review of the planned programme for worship, visitors attending, resources used as well as review of individual worship sessions

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- Pupil feedback from the Worship Team
- Pupil feedback from other pupils through discussion or follow up work in the classroom
- Observation of the impact on children and adults' behaviour in and around school, in particular how they demonstrate the values of Love God, Love Others, Love Learning
- Parental support, attendance and feedback
- Governor visits

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of a child withdrawn at the parent's request. The Headteacher will discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child.

References:

1944 Education Act, 1988 Education Reform Act, DFEE Circular 1/94

Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good Autumn 2016

Relationships Education Curriculum and DfE guidance.

Guildford Diocese Board of Education: Collective Worship in a Church of England Primary School April 2018

The Way Ahead: Church of England Schools in the new Millennium, St Albans, Church of England publishing 2001 GS1406

Collective Worship Guidelines for the Primary School, Chester Board of Education 2009

SIAMS Schedule September 2018, revised September 2022

Valuing All God's Children: Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Summer 2019