



Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

From tiny seeds, we grow and learn together

Our school vision is inspired by the parable of the mustard seed. When planted and nurtured by a loving community, every seed can grow and flourish.

Our school is like the mustard tree; a place where all are valued and belong.

Our children are like tiny seeds; in good soil they can grow as loving, courageous and joyful individuals, ready to branch out and be good news in an ever-changing world.

Our team of gardeners enable each unique child to flourish, removing barriers, and supporting growth.

Little people can do big things through love, courage and joy

Jesus told them a parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter."

Crookham CE(A) Infant School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Infant School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the school's vision and values. Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of Love, Courage, and Joy.

At Crookham CE(A) Infant School we consider collective worship to be a really important part of the school day. It is an opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character, enable adults and children from all faiths or none to flourish spiritually, create a sense of community together, as well as an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

In light of our duty to invest in the spiritual flourishing of children and adults as part of our school community, our aims for daily collective worship are 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.

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;

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- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) building a sense of group identity;
- e) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- g) learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) making visible the school's leadership;
- l) developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Whilst it is hoped that parents who choose to send their children to a church school would be supportive of the act of collective worship, especially acts that are designed to be **inclusive, invitational and inspirational**, it can certainly not be assumed, and **if a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply**. This request may also be changed by parents at any time. By law, parents are not required to explain their reasons for the request.

A ruling in Northern Ireland in November 2025 deemed that parents being invited in for a meeting to discuss the withdrawal with the head teacher was unduly burdensome. In order to meet the parental request for withdrawal, it may be necessary to sensitively clarify:

- the issues/aspects which the parent would object their child being exposed to (e.g. whether they would wish their child to be present in Good News Collective Worship);
- the practical implications of withdrawal, in order to safeguard that pupil;
- if they require any advanced notice of such aspect in the future (e.g. Open the Book, or visitors from religious communities) and if so, how much.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. *NB. In a controlled school (or if they were first employed when the school was a controlled school), staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. This right TUPE's over if you are now an academy (only put this in if it applies to your school)*

In the case of parental or staff withdrawal (see Appendix 2 of Diocesan Collective Worship guidance), contact needs to be made with the Headteacher, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Guidance for new parents on withdrawal in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Lead and Headteacher plan the themes for the term and then creates a detailed half termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and import events.

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The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson, with support from Guildford Diocese' own Collective Worship materials, and our class-based worship scheme Jack in the Box and Oscar out of the Box.

Themes

- We take the themes of our Collective Worship from Guildford Diocese' supporting materials. In addition, each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome both Revd. Matt and the Open the Book Team fortnightly.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a governor visit form. The current governor responsible for monitoring collective worship is Mrs Anna Stewart.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection.

Organisation of Collective Worship for the academic year 2025 – 2026

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms:

The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however this is the intended pattern for collective worship;

- Monday – Head Teacher led Collective Worship – Introducing the weekly theme or focus.
- Tuesday – Revd. Matt or Open the Book
- Wednesday – Class Based worship – Jack in the Box or Oscar out of the Box complimenting the weekly theme or focus.
- Thursday – Teacher lead Collective Worship – Guildford Diocese Collective Worship materials.
- Friday – Good News Collective Worship – Showcasing the 'Good News' and achievements of the children over the week.

Class Collective Worship

Each class presents a class Collective Worship during the academic year.

We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class Collective Worship.

Christian Festival and celebrations either in the church or at school

In Crookham CE(A) Infant School we celebrate:

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Harvest – with a special collective worship at school

Remembrance – On Remembrance Day there is a Y2 visit to church after the act of 2 minutes silence at the war memorial

Christmas - Nativities (YR in church, Y1 & Y2 at school); whole school Christmas service in church

Easter – Whole school Easter service in church

Prayer Space

We take part in a prayer space at Christ Church twice a year, at Epiphany, and at Pentecost.