

CROPTHORNE WITH CHARLTON C E FIRST SCHOOL

POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Sally Martin

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 be 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.

VISION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT: "Inspiring Learning for Life"

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Vision Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims and ethos of Croptborne with Charlton C E First School, valuing all children equally.

The ethos of the school, and all that we stand for, is reflected in, and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and reflects our beliefs and values, which are set out in the school prospectus.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school when children and staff meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all are given the opportunity to reflect and participate.

AIMS

We seek always to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian Worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others will become familiar with aspects of worship.

Our central aims of Collective Worship are: -

1 to provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and

prayer

- 2 to promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- 3 to deepen the children's knowledge and understanding of Christian faith
- 4 to celebrate the values and worth of this school and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils
- 5 to help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship
- 6 to help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.

We support the broader curriculum through the use of music, art, drama and literature. Collective Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

PRACTICE

Croptorne with Charlton School is a Church of England school.

Collective Worship helps us to become aware that there is something bigger and greater than we are. It helps us make sense of our experiences.

It shows us how to respond meaningfully to moments of beauty truth, honesty, mystery, love, hope, trust, celebration and much more.

During our Collective Worship we reflect upon a range of life experiences.

In different assemblies we reflect on: -

- the teachings and life of Jesus and its application to everyday life
- the wonders of God's creation
- the stories and teaching of the Bible (both Old and New Testament)
- the life and practice of the Christian Church and its members
- the lives of significant Christians and of other famous people whose lives set us an example
- our own achievements and the life of the school
- problems and difficulties which human beings face and the ways we find strength to cope with them
- the interdependence of human beings in society, the environment and the world
- the stories and teachings of other faiths
- the store of wisdom contained in story, fable, myth and legend.

Our reflections are supported by carefully chosen words, music and visual stimuli.

We aim to make our assemblies accessible and appropriate for children of all ages and religious/non religious backgrounds.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from our daily act of worship. Supervised study will be provided for those unable to participate.

ORGANISATION

The whole school, including members of staff, meets together in the hall each day. Worship usually lasts about 15 minutes. Various people assist the Head Teacher in conducting whole school worship. The **Warden of Holland House** leads worship on one day each month. Visitors also contribute from time to time.

The school makes use of both village churches and the chapel at Holland House. Church visits also take place at Harvest and Christmas. There is at least one service held in church and one in the chapel each term.

Each half-term our Collective Worship follows a planned theme based on core values. These follow a **three** year cycle. Assemblies include music, a song of praise, a story, talk or reading, a prayer or the Lord's Prayer. A typical week's Collective Worship would follow a pattern such as that outlined below.

Monday	Theme based assembly / prayer / time for reflection.	SM
Tuesday	Theme based assembly led by Teacher responsible for Collective Worship.	FJ
Wednesday	Songs of praise / worship / prayer	IS/SM
Thursday	Theme based assembly	AP
Friday	Children's Celebration assembly. Children offer their own achievements and reflect on achievements of others. Prayers led by children. Sticker/awards presented. Star workers attend 'tea' with Headteacher at end of day.	SM

Children are encouraged to participate in Collective Worship on a daily basis by responding to stories, reading stories and prayers or by performing plays or music. Instrumentalists play in assembly on a regular basis and class one lead prayers on Fridays. **In the Autumn Term, parents are invited to Assemblies led by Classes 2 and 3 and by Class 1 in the Spring. All visitors are welcome at our weekly celebrations assembly.**

RESOURCES

Staff, pupils, **Priest in Charge**, visitors
 Religious artefacts: cross, bible, candle, wall hangings
 Assembly books for teachers
 Assembly songbooks
 Assembly record file
 Library (themed box)
 Tapes/CD's
 Piano, guitar, recorders, violins, flutes.

EVALUATION

A record is kept of our two year theme cycle. A weekly record is kept, which includes the theme, the hymns, prayers and resources.

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

- 1 checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- 2 observation of children's attentiveness and interest
- 3 verbal feedback from pupils
- 4 extent of influence on pupil behaviour.

The **Warden of Holland House** and appropriate governor are also involved in the above processes.

MULTICULTURALISM

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with major faiths studied in the school; Christian / Jewish / Hindu / Sikh/ Muslim. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is actively encouraged.

This policy was approved by the full governing body on 17th May 2011

This policy will be reviewed in May 2012

Governors responsible: **Ian Spencer**/Graham Pharo