Cranham
Church of England (VA)
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Written with guidance from the Diocese of Gloucester's Board of Education

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SOWING THE SEEDS OF LEARNING, THROUGH COURAGE, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY.

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Cranham C of E school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity:

- God the Father, the source of all being and life
- God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection
- God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world.

A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity.
Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths') calendar.
Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. Collective worship in Cranham C of E School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in Cranham should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

Aims

Collective worship at Cranham School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' in their spiritual growth.
- Be invitational, so that we provide access to the Christian faith and a sense of welcome. The whole community can chose the extent to which they engage and participate.
- Be inspirational, helping pupils to see the wonder of their World, and the amazing moments that life offers us, both large and small. Pupils will be shown how they can make a difference in the World, and how the power of the Christian faith has an impact too.
- Be inclusive, allowing people of all faiths and no faith to feel part of the school community and the Collective Worship itself. Messages about optional participation in specific Christian aspects are clear and positive.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local incumbent and the Diocese of Gloucester)
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Guidelines

The religious foundation of the school as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

- Children will take part in Collective Worship every day.
- All members of staff will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to take a lead, class by class.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of mankind and the celebration of religious festivals.

- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will sometimes be reference made to faiths other than Christianity.
- The collective worship will include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.
- Parents will be allowed to withdraw their children from assemblies after consultation.
- Grace is said in the hall before lunch every day. Children say prayers before they go home at the end of the day.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, following the Jumping Fish four-part format:

- Gathering together
- Learning together
- Responding and reflecting together
- Leaving together

Assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, and to listen carefully to the teachings. We invite them to participate in prayers and hymns, making it clear that they can abstain from any aspects with which they are not comfortable. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. These ceremonial aspects help the children to feel the sense of invitation. Children are often given a follow-up task or thought to carry into the day to inspire them to follow Christian values and/or the teachings of Jesus.

MON	Whole School Values Worship – often based around scripture, children explore and discuss how best to live out our school values. Our School vision is regularly addressed.	Headteacher / Clergy
TUES	Class Spirituality Worship (separated into EYFS&KS1 / LKS2 / UKS2) – children explore the term's value, big questions raised by last week's current affairs or an element of spirituality with their class teacher. Delivered in an age-appropriate manner.	Class teachers
WED	Whole School Singing Worship – praise through music and singing, exploration of music from around the world.	Senior teacher / Music lead
THUR	Key-Stage Current Affairs Worship – inspired by a weekly picture, children discuss how the news makes them feel and what they can do to make a difference in the world around them. As we are a less diverse school than most, we use this opportunity to celebrate the differences in the world, and to highlight the importance of individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. They relate this to the teachings of Jesus. Delivered in an age-appropriate manner.	Headteacher / Class teachers (See Current Affairs floor book)
FRI	Whole School Celebration Worship. Values awards, headteachers awards, pupil award, values pebbles are given out. Pupil shave the opportunity to share extra-curricular successes / perform.	Y6 Pupil Worship Team

The Act of Worship will be based on:

- Termly themes (from the school vision) taken from Roots and Fruits
- Jumping Fish resources
- Special events in the Christian calendar
- Issues which arrive from the everyday life and ethos of the school

The theme for the term is displayed in the hall and in class rooms along with supporting information where Worship takes place.

At specific times throughout the school year, Celebrations of Worship are held in the local Parish Church. Parents, Governors and friends share in these services which are held during Harvest, at Christmas, at Easter and at the end of the school year.

The school uses a variety of ways to encourage families to explore the Collective Worship themes at home and these are then shared as we move through the term.

Collective Worship time in school needs to be distinct from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness. We use our small inner hall to hold our worship if possible but may also use classrooms or the school garden if this is more appropriate. There is a small area used as a focus for whole school act of worship. A small table is used as a focus with a cloth which links to the changing seasons in the church calendar, red, gold, green and purple. A cross is a focal point but there may be other items which are on display and act as a thinking point for a particular act of worship e.g. a poppy during Remembrance week.

Red – Saints, Pentecost, November, Holy Week
White – Christmas, Easter celebrations
Purple – Advent, Lent
Green – Other times

The children enter the hall in silence and sit and listen to the music and contemplate thecross or the items on display. A candle is lit at the start of worship and at the end of the act of worship a member of the school 'blows out' the candle. Any messages are given out after the candle is extinguished so that they do not impinge on the act of worship. Each Collective Worship begins with the school creed and the blessing or a prayer is usually said at the end.

Collective worship involves children through a combination of:

- Pupils contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

Children will be given the opportunity to consider familiar ideas and explore new ones. They will experience a wide diversity of worship and practice, which encourages a variety of responses.

Roots and Fruits values

Roots and Fruits is a resource to support primary schools in promoting the teaching of Christian values. Each seasonal term we focus on one of the 3 values from our vision. The school council have then linked 3-4 other values with each of these core values. This resource provides suggestions for worship to address and explore each of these values.

Right to withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. Unless parents have exercised their right of withdrawal, all children should attend school worship. Facilities will be made available for children, whose parents have withdrawn them from school worship, to work in the classroom.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring occurs informally though staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. Pupils are asked to review their learning about the value at the end of each term through a variety of tasks. It is the role of the Ethos Committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Visitors are invited regularly to allow children to hear different perspectives. These visits are planned in at the beginning of a value and are evaluated afterwards to consider their impact. Children are asked for their responses to Collective Worship on a regular basis.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website