

Collective Worship Policy

Crawley Down Village C of E School



**Learning together, flourishing together: “With God,
all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26**

Approved by: Full Governing Body

Date: 15.06.23

**Next review due
by:** June 2026

Policy Statement for Collective Worship

Crawley Down Village C of E School Vision

Crawley Down Village C of E School aspires to be a learning community where love and respect are at the heart of all we do. We aim to be a school that lives life in all its fullness; encouraging and supporting each other to be the best we can be.

Introduction

At Crawley Down Village C of E School collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Legal Requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage each day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship, key stage, class or group worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the collective worship co-ordinator in the first instance and thereafter to the Headteacher. Following a conversation with the Headteacher, parents should confirm this request in writing.

Further information about the Right to Withdraw is published on our website, and in our prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Crawley Down Village C of E School welcomes all. Our pupils come from a variety of backgrounds reflecting the plural and secular nature of our society. The school community may include those who have, or who come from:

- families with a commitment to the Christian faith
- families with a commitment to a faith other than Christianity
- families with no particular commitment to any religion

Acts of Collective Worship take account of the family backgrounds of all pupils as part of the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Diversity enriches the life of our school community. In line with guidance from the Diocese of Chichester (In Spirit and In Truth 2015) we take particular care to ensure that in acts of Collective Worship diversity is embraced in positive and sensitive ways through:

- building up positive relationships with families and local faith communities
- encouraging pupils to be present at acts of Collective Worship while ensuring that pupils from other faiths and their parents are aware that they will not be required to say Christian prayers
- ensuring that when some leaders use Christian prayers in the time set aside for prayer, pupils will be encouraged to use their own private devotions by thinking of prayers they have learned in their own faith tradition
- providing opportunities for silent reflection to enable all pupils to make a personal response

- developing a sense of shared values and achievements which cross cultural and religious boundaries
- catering for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

We aim that our approach to Collective Worship is sensitive to the needs and backgrounds of the communities it serves.

Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows;

Monday	Whole School led by Teacher
Tuesday	Whole School led by the Vicar of All Saints' Church or a member of SLT
Wednesday	Whole School with particular focus on music and hymns led by a member of teaching staff
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Whole School to include reflection on achievements

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for worship and we differentiate acts of collective worship from other assembly activities. The setting for acts of worship should be attractive and welcoming with a focus for all attending. Children should enter and leave in an orderly manner. Music will be played on entry and departure. Hymns and songs will be sung and there will be a quiet time for children to reflect. The visible focus may include a picture, slides, artefacts or the lighting of a candle. Acts of worship will be led by members of staff, whole classes, groups of children, local clergy or visiting speakers. Worship begins and ends with a prayer or a call and response. A place is given for the celebration of the school and individual achievements – including reference to pupils demonstrating the school's values in action. Our values of Respect, Challenge, Teamwork, Independence, and Creativity and other Christian values are at the heart of all that we do and are celebrated together. Individuals leading worship are expected to plan the act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as other planning. We base our acts of worship around a structure of gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Our worship themes follow the liturgical calendar and are planned by the Collective Worship Leader. We use Roots and Shoots and materials from the Diocese of Guildford to support our worship.

Staff and Community Involvement in Worship

All staff and Church Leaders from All Saint's Church [are involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship. Parents, friends and governors are invited to special events including harvest, carol service, Easter and leavers' services. The school supports the Diocesan Leavers' Service. All visiting speakers will have access to the Collective Worship Policy.

Pupil Involvement in Worship

Pupils play an active part in planning and leading worship on a regular basis. They will be able to participate in a number of ways including worship, planning, setting up the hall or room, working the computer, singing, reading, responding, reflecting, spending time in prayer and evaluating. Worship Ambassadors (pupils from Year 2-6) contribute to the planning and delivery of collective worship through regular meetings with the Headteacher and/or Collective Worship leader. They lead the call to worship and school prayer. They are also responsible for collecting pupil feedback in relation to collective worship and the maintenance of reflective areas in classrooms.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Collective worship is coordinated by Rhian Bourne. The collective worship leader is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship, supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading worship, monitoring the quality of worship and evaluating its impact across the school community. The collective worship leader reports to the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

We regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader, staff, pupils and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including parents and visitors. These suggestions and views are shared with the Governing Body and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the senior leaders, the Collective Worship leader and teaching staff.

Date adopted...15.06.23..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors