

CROFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a Church of England School we carry out a daily act of Collective Worship in accordance with the Trust Deed and the broad traditions of Anglicanism. We endeavour to make our Acts of Worship relevant to the background, age and experience of our pupils.

Collective Worship is an opportunity to:

- promote a sense of community
- be educational
- promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development
- be a special time
- enable participants to be actively involved

Aims:

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in Croft Church of England Primary School are:

- Reflect on beliefs, traditions and values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Participate in, and respond to, the worship.
- Reflect on their own lives, feelings and experiences.
- Experience different elements of worship eg celebration, reverence, sense of awe/wonder, praise, silence, ritual, symbolism.
- Use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- To provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- Raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. peace, compassion, forgiveness, hope, trust) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others and inclusiveness.
- Celebrate success, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background. They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils. Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective Worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen. The school values the impact of Collective Worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that Collective Worship is regularly monitored and evaluated. The Headteacher will report termly to the governing body on the themes covered in the daily acts of Collective Worship and how they complement the school's aims and values. At other times parents, staff and pupils may be consulted about the quality, effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship.

We acknowledge the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship and of individual teachers to exercise their right of non-participation on religious grounds.

Collective Worship Programme

At Croft Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, we follow two-year Collective Worship programme. Each half term, we celebrate a new Christian Value. We also follow the church calendar and we celebrate in St Peter's Church through seasonal services led by Church clergy, members of the local community, staff and pupils of the school.

Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer term	
1 st Half	2 nd Half	1 st Half	2 nd Half	1 st Half	2 nd Half
Year A: Generosity Year B: Thankfulness	Year A: Compassion Year B: Trust	Year A: Courage Year B: Perseverance	Year A: Forgiveness Year B: Justice	Year A: Friendship Year B: Service	Year A: Respect Year B: Truthfulness
Harvest Festival Service Remembrance Service	Advent Eucharist Candle Service Carols Around the Tree Service	Candlemas Eucharist	Easter Service	Rogation Service	Leavers' Service

We meet as a whole school for acts of worship every Monday and Tuesday at 3.05pm. On Wednesday mornings all classes meet for individual class acts of worship and reflection. On Thursdays, at 3.05pm, we alternate each week between Hymn Practice/ Reflection and pupil-led Christian Value Worships. On a Friday we come together for Celebration Worship. Local clergy are invited to lead our worships on a regular basis. Reception pupils join the whole school and take part in community worships and Friday Celebration Worships. On all other occasions, Reception pupils stay in the Early Years environment for their own worship and reflection time.

Bi-weekly Worship Plan					
Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Community-led Worship (KJ)	Roots and Fruits Christian Value Worship (Class Teacher Rota)	In-class Worship (Class Teacher / Pupil led)	Hymn Practice and Reflection (Class Teacher Rota / BL)	Celebration Worship (Head Teacher)
2	Community-led Worship (KJ)	Roots and Fruits Christian Value Worship (Class Teacher Rota)	In-class Worship (Class Teacher / Pupil led)	Pupil-led Christian Value Worship (Class Rota)	Celebration Worship (Head Teacher)

The school uses 'Roots and Fruits' to support its Collective Worship programme. This programme aims to:

- Be inspiring and transformational
- Include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
- Develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school

Pattern of Collective Worship

We aim to make our time of worship a special time in the school day and children are expected to enter and leave the hall in silence and listen to the music prepared. The altar is the focal point of worship. On the altar is a cloth that represents the colour of the season of the Church year and a Bible, which stays open at verse or story of the day. Three candles are lit, representing The Father, Son and Holy Spirit to open the worship and this provides a central focus for children when reflecting upon a variety of themes carefully planned to complement seasons of the Christian calendar. Pupils and staff are given time to reflect at the end of the worship and an opportunity to engage in prayer. All worships end with staff and pupils observing the sign of the cross and leave to music.

Worship follows a familiar pattern:

- **Welcome** – 3 candles are lit and a welcome related to the focus of the worship is shared
- **Learning** – various different stimuli are used to inspire learning eg Bible stories, drama, visual images, poems etc.
- **Reflecting** – searching questions are offered as a focus for reflection and there are a few moments of silence
- **Responding** – consideration to how God might be challenging those present 'step out' and play their part and make a difference and will usually be in the form of a prayer

† Christian values: reverence, wisdom, thankfulness, endurance, respect, service, compassion, trust, peace, forgiveness, justice, hope, creation, koinonia †

- **Fruits from the Roots** – there will sometimes be a suggestion for an activity to stimulate further discussion and consideration to the theme of worship

In-class worships follow a similar pattern. All classes have a reflection area where three candles are lit and the Christian Value is displayed. This is the focal point for in-class worships. Pupils' reflections are added to the class reflection area. Each week's progress and records of in-class worships are kept in class worship books. Pupils also keep their own reflection journals which they complete at the end of each Christian Value cycle.

The content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may include the following:

- Prayer, reflection and meditation
- Consideration of different viewpoints on central issues
- Music, singing, drama, dance
- Story, poetry, artefacts, visual arts
- Discussion
- Celebration of religious festivals
- Celebration of ways of helping others
- Pupils' own experiences
- Aspects of the school curriculum, pupils' work and school activities
- Celebration of the involvement and achievements of the school community
- Links with the local community
- Contributions from people from outside the school
- National and international events and issues

Pupils engage with the content of Collective Worship and learn about each Christian value in depth. They are then encouraged to reflect upon their own beliefs, deciding if these values need assimilating into their own character. Pupils and adults in our school are also invited to consider how they can take this learning to enhance, not just their own but other's lives accordingly. Hymns and prayers are used sensitively. Engagement in prayer is not mandatory and children are asked to use the opportunity to reflect meaningfully on their own personal thoughts.

'The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, to provide opportunities for reflection and to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.'

Community Worships

Members of the teaching staff, local clergy and the children share in leading Acts of Collective Worship and work together to create a whole school ethos and to promote Christian values. Mrs Jones, Youth Worker, from The Village Seeds Project (Darlington Area Churches Youth Ministry) leads Collective Worship each Monday and works across many schools locally. Mrs Jones also leads the school's Discovers Club. We also have good links with the local church and we attend St Peter's Church for worship at Christmas, Easter and to mark the end of each school year. We involve the local community in our programme of worships across the year. Each term a Eucharist is held in school which is led by Reverend Jenni Lane and attended by pupils, parents and friends. On the final Thursday of each half term, worship takes place at St Peter's Church and is led by Mrs Waugh, a Lay Reader and a Foundation Governor. Parents and families also have the opportunity to attend Friday Celebration Worship at least once each half term and they are also invited to pupil-led Christian Value Worships which are organised by a Class Teacher and pupils. Invitations are written and sent out by the children to their families.

Leadership and Management

Collective Worship is led and managed by the Collective Worship Leader and governors are included in the long-term planning and monitoring process. Monitoring and Evaluation is the responsibility the Collective Worship Leader and is overseen by the Head Teacher. Parents and families, staff and pupils are asked to share their thoughts and reflections. This allows us to see the impact of worship on all members of our community and plan next steps accordingly. At the beginning of each Christian Value theme, staff, governors and pupils reflect on a series of questions relating to the forthcoming Christian Value to help prepare for the coming half term.

This policy was reviewed in September 2017