

# Cranham Church of England (VA) Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Signed: *A. Nolan*

Anne Nolan (Headteacher)

Date: September 2015

Martin Whitaker (Chair of Governors)

Date: September 2015

Review: September 2017

## **Introduction**

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of the Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and Ethos Statement of the school.

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.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as 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; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that *all* members of the community (children and all staff) will be present other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

## **Legal Framework**

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states 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 head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

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 head teacher.

## **Aims**

At Cranham Church of England School we aim through collective worship to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- 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.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form

their own prayers using multi-sensory focii and introduce them to some well known 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.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.
- 

## Organisation

Day	Theme	Key Stakeholders responsible
Monday	Values/ Church cycle	Headteacher – Mrs Nolan
Tuesday	Praise	Mrs Hodges
Wednesday	Open the Book	Open the Book Miss Young (All pupils using a rota)
Thursday	Values/ Church cycle	Vicar – Rev Holloway or Pupil Collective Worship team
Friday	Celebration	Pupil Celebration Worship Team

Note : each team a collective worship session is linked to the schools PSCHÉ programme and lead by the PSCHÉ lead Sharon King.

- The whole school meets on a daily basis to share in an act of collective worship. This is normally at 9.10am. 15 minutes is allocated to Collective Worship on Monday to Thursday and 20 minutes on Friday.
- Collective Worship is owned and led by a wide variety of stakeholders including the head teacher, a member of staff, small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors and the Open the Book Team
- Worship is planned using the Christian Year and the schools 12 core values which have been planned around a 2 year cycle. Worship includes stories from other religions in at least one act of worship per term.
- The key stakeholders identified take responsibility for planning based on the yearly overview. Pupils on the Collective Worship team are supported by the Headteacher.
- Values worship has been supported by the Values for Life planning material which the school is replacing with Roots and Shoots from September 2015. The schools core values are expressed and celebrated through collective worship and explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school

2016 2018 2020

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Courage	Forgiveness	Respect	Friendship	Trust	Thankfulness
					

2015 2017 2019

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Perseverance	Justice	Service	Compassion	Truthfulness	Generosity
					

*Value Cycle planned by:*

*Hamish, Lydia, Alfie, Taiya and Mrs Nolan (March 2015)*

- Collective worship reflects the cycle of the Church year and resources to identify relevant themes are provided in the Collective Worship file

- Resources are provided to ensure all members of the school community, especially children, are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship. Aspects of each act of worship are structured so that they can be led by children ( lighting the candle, a school prayer and blessing, a prayer tree is brought into worship). The Collective Worship Team have access to planning grids to plan their worship and are involved in additional training through the 'Lighting the Candle' Programme. The Worship Team is also responsible for preparing the hall for acts of worship, organising the worship song and welcoming visitors. Visiting speakers are invited to share in worship occasionally. They will be offered guidance in leading worship in accordance with our school booklet 'Guidelines for those leading worship'
- Collective Worship time in school is seen as distinct from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness. A table is used with a Liturgy colour cloth to act as a focus for whole school acts of worship. The children have selected a 'circle of Friends candle as a symbol of the collectivity of worship and this is included on the alongside a cross. Additional artefacts may be added to this focal point. The pattern of daily worship reflects the Anglican tradition.

Collective worship normally takes place in the school hall, however good use is also made of the outside environment including the top of the common and the local woodland. The children are currently constructing a spiritual area within the school ground with the potential for this to also be used for Collective Worship. The School also makes regular use of the local church St James the Great. Welcome, Harvest Easter and Leavers Services are held at the Church and are open to parents and members of the community.

- A wide range of material is used for Collective Worship including: websites, artifacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips,. These are used to enable children and staff to experience a wide diversity of worship practice, which encourages a variety of responses.

For example:

## **1. Elements of worship**

Prayer

Reflection and contemplation

Individual and group activity

Reading, sermons

Special clothing, artefacts

Discussion, speech and silence

Procession and ritual action

Food and drink

Dance/drama

Use of the senses

Artistic imagery and plainness

Songs, music

## **2. Senses and Feelings**

Sense of beauty, wonder and awe  
Feelings of pride  
Sense of pity  
Sense of peace or thankfulness  
Sense of shared sadness or loss  
Sense of smallness in the face of the greatness of things  
Sense of grandness in the face of the smallest of things  
Sense of stillness in the midst of a busy experience

### **Right of withdrawal:**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from the daily Act of Collective Worship. [Education Act 1988] Any parent wishing to do so needs to make a written request to the Head teacher and attend a meeting to discuss their wishes with the Head teacher.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Acts of worship are evaluated by the children and recorded in a Collective Worship journal with further evidence recorded on Earwig under a tagged time-line. Worship is further monitored and evaluated by Headteacher and by governor through the Collective Worship journal and Earwig and as part of planned monitoring visits. The Schools Bishop's Visitor also attends Collective Worship providing written feedback to governors

Monitoring is fed into actions within the School Development plan and evaluated through the school development plan monitoring and impact document.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and its effectiveness discussed with children, staff and governors of the school.