

# **CROWMARSH GIFFORD C. E. SCHOOL**



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**(Updated January 2017)**

**Linked to Articles 12, 13, and 14 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously. Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive information of any kind as long as it is within the law. Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children guidance about this right.**

### **Policy Statement**

Crowmarsh Gifford is a Church of England Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all pupils. Staff and visitors in school are always encouraged to join in. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement, “ Working in partnership for Success”

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

It is our aim at Crowmarsh Church of England Primary School that worship should: -

- reflect the vision and values of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual’s integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

### **Organisation**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Collective worship takes place at 9:55 until 10:10 on Monday to Wednesday and 2:50 until 3:05 on Thursday and Friday. Occasionally we do class reflection/worship in class. However, children always have some form of a daily act of collective worship.

Our current schedule is as follows:

***Faith* ◇ *Service* ◇ *Integrity* ◇ *Responsibility* ◇ *Truth* ◇ *Excellence***

**Monday:** Whole school worship led by the Headteacher.

**Tuesday :** Whole school worship led by Reverend Kevin Beer

**Wednesday:** Visitor Day – led by clergy of local churches, worship team or external speakers.

**Thursday:** Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by Miss Zimmerman the music coordinator

**Friday:** Praise Worship – Whole School celebrate their achievements both in and out of school.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, and often includes songs. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. A time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. At the end of the school day, children also say our school prayer.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

### **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

Collective worship is regularly evaluated and monitored. Pupil voice is used as a key way of collecting in attitudes and perceptions of collective worship and used to adapt the style of collective worship as appropriate. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

### **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Crowmarsh Gifford Church of England Primary School, ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Mary's Magdalene church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards termly church services as well as key festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

### **Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues**

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

### **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

***Faith ♦ Service ♦ Integrity ♦ Responsibility ♦ Truth ♦ Excellence***

## **Appendix 1**

### **Questions about Collective Worship for the Staff and Governing Body**

- Is there a clear policy document for Collective Worship?
- Does the school policy relate to the school's Ethos and/or Mission Statement?
- Is the policy for Collective Worship being followed?
- How is the worship organised?
- Does the school have a named person responsible for Collective Worship alongside the Head Teacher?
- Is there a governor with responsibility for Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus clearly reflect the legal position of Collective Worship?
- Does the prospectus and other school documentation reflect the value that the school and the governing body place on Collective Worship?
- Is the Collective Worship clearly planned?
- Is there a budget set aside for Collective Worship?
- Have staff received in-service training on Collective Worship?
- Does the Collective Worship offered in the school underpin the school's Christian ethos?
- Is the Collective Worship provided underpinned by Christian values?
- Is the Collective Worship regularly monitored and evaluated?
- Does the worship take place in a variety of groupings?
- Are staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are support staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are there opportunities for governors and parents to be present for worship?
- Are there opportunities for individual class worship within the classrooms?
- Does the pattern of worship reflect the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage?
- Does the worship allow the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition?
- Does the quality and provision of Collective Worship offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual development?
- Does the worship offer opportunities for pupils' cultural and multi-cultural development?
- Does the worship give opportunities for the pupils to explore the worldwide Christian Church?
- Does the worship provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God?
- Does the worship take place in an environment conducive to worship?
- Does the worship offer pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death?
- Does the worship provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them?
- Does the worship provide experiences that are relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds?
- Does the worship give time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space?
- Does the worship link into other areas of the school curriculum e.g. PSHE and circle time?
- Do the classrooms have a 'sacred space' or a table set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection?
- Have the school considered other vehicles for prayer and reflection e.g. an anonymous prayer box?
- Are pupils, governors, clergy or other visitors involved in leading Collective Worship?
- Does the governing body provide guidance for visitors who lead worship?
- Does the school celebrate the Eucharist?
- Has the governing body discussed the possibility of a school Eucharist?
- Are there regular acts of worship for staff, including a Eucharist?
- Does the school have any links with other Christian denominations?
- Does the worship celebrate all that is

### Example Observation Pro-Forma for Collective Worship

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Leader:</b>
<b>Theme</b>		
<b>Purpose and Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was the purpose of the act of worship clear to all present?</li> <li>• Was the theme developed effectively?</li> <li>• Were visual aids or different elements used in presentation?</li> <li>• Was worship integral to the school day?</li> <li>• Was the act of worship conducted at an appropriate pace?</li> <li>• Was visual art used or children's creative work shown and celebrated?</li> </ul>		
<b>Atmosphere</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was there a sense of order on entering and leaving?</li> <li>• Were candles, flowers, a cross or other visual focus used?</li> <li>• Was there a relaxed, secure atmosphere?</li> <li>• Did the leader contribute to the atmosphere with language, attitude and tone?</li> <li>• Is there a distinction between the assembly and an act of worship?</li> <li>• Was there a balance of music, speech and silence?</li> </ul>		
<b>Spiritual Dimension</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could this act of collective worship have contributed to the spiritual and moral development of individuals?</li> <li>• Were there opportunities for prayer/reflection/quiet? How were they used?</li> </ul>		
<b>Integrity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was there a sense of respect for individuals?</li> <li>• Was there openness, or compulsion, in invitations to pray or sing?</li> <li>• Did the occasion engender ease or discomfort among the participants?</li> <li>• Were the words of songs or hymns appropriate for the pupils and the theme?</li> </ul>		
<b>Pupil/Student Involvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How wide was the age range?</li> <li>• Was the delivery appropriate for the interests, background, ability and age range of pupils?</li> <li>• Were the pupils engaged and well motivated?</li> </ul>		
<b>Staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were teachers present (how many?) or was this seen as non-contact time? Were they involved or spectators?</li> </ul>		
<b>Parents, Governors, Visitors, Clergy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were any parents, governors or visitors present?</li> <li>• If so, what role did they play?</li> <li>• Were links with the local church referred to?</li> <li>• If a visitor led the worship: was it evident that the briefing has been adequate?</li> <li>• Was the visitor introduced properly?</li> </ul>		

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was the visitor's contribution appropriate in content?</li><li>• Were the concepts and language used appropriate to the children present?</li></ul>   |
| <b>Close</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Was the timing good?</li><li>• Did the occasion clarify and affirm the values for which the school stands?</li><li>• Did it offer pupils/adults something to think about and take into the life of the school?</li></ul> |
| <b>Additional points for future development</b>   |



**Overall, how would you rate this act of worship?**