

Collective Worship Policy



'Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ'

2 Peter 3 v18

We are a welcoming church school where everyone is valued and encouraged to flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually.

We promote a love of learning where individual talents are nurtured; hopes and aspirations can be achieved.

Where excitement is evident and enrichment opportunities shape our grace and knowledge.

Jesus motivates, inspires and teaches us about living life in all its fullness.

INTRODUCTION

Collective Worship in Church schools is governed by both the Education Act 1944 and 1988 as well as the Trust Deed of the school. As a school community we believe worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of connecting with God. Collective worship includes all members of the school community coming together to participate actively in a daily act of worship. Our worship is based around the school's Christian values; teaching of Christ and is underpinned by the Church of England's vision for education; with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart.

RATIONALE

In our school some children come from families who regularly worship together, while many children do not. Some children are experiencing worship for the first time at school and others are at the 'threshold of worship'. In a busy, lively primary school it

is important to set aside time for the children to come together in a feeling of belonging and community to reflect on ideas surrounding their lives. Collective worship is central to developing our ethos as a Christian community; an opportunity to celebrate our school's Christian Values; and to explore the Church of England vision for Education with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and give him praise
- To help develop better understanding of Bible teaching
- To help children discover their place in the world
- To help children understand the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To help children understand the nature of human beings as children of God; part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life
- To come to know Jesus as a source of inspiration and guidance
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian celebrations
- To contribute to children's spiritual development, enabling children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievement
- To establish, explore and reinforce the core Christian values of the school: *Love, Hope, Grace, Service, Wisdom and Community*
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings
- To develop personal relationships and encourage social development
- To provide opportunities to emphasise with the needs of others
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local Church.
- To understand that worship can happen anywhere.

ENTITLEMENT and ORGANISATION

At Coppull St John's Church of England Primary School collective worship is carried out every day for all of our pupils.

- Worship is seen mainly as Christian based, drawing largely from the Bible.
- There are some stories used from other faiths along with bible teaching.
- Collective worship may take the form of short stories, drama or discussions
- Children are encouraged to participate and quiet times are often used for reflection and private thought
- We encourage a calm and thoughtful atmosphere and children are encouraged to enter the hall calmly to music and sit comfortably to create a peaceful ambience for worship
- Music is played at the beginning and end of the worship
- There will be at least one prayer said in the worship, with prayers said during class time throughout the school day
- The head teacher, assistant head, class teacher, parish clergy, Inspire and the worship group are welcomed to lead the worship
- Some collective worship can take the form of 'Prayer and Praise' with singing focus.
- Fridays are usually 'Celebration' achievement assemblies
- Weekly worships are planned taking into account curricular themes, special days and celebrations within the church

Monday: Whole School

Tuesday: Key Stage Worship

Wednesday: Whole School worship

Thursday: Whole school worship led by Clergy / Inspire /Class led on a rota throughout each term.

Friday: Whole school Celebration Worship

Our Friday celebration assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements and successes both in and out of school. This assembly plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Newsletters show themes for worship and encourage families to reflect on this work. We invite parents to join our worship on a regular basis, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Children from the worship group and classes lead a collective worship throughout the term. They are also encouraged to take part in the church services held each year.

Children are given opportunity to respond and reflect on worship themes and these are added to our whole school worship and class display books.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

CHURCH EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

The main celebrations for the school year include a Harvest festival at which the children contribute gifts or food for those less fortunate than themselves and make a donation to the Bishop's Harvest Charity. The whole school community come together to join the parish in the Remembrance Day parade and service.

A Christmas carol service takes place in December in Church with a nativity performance in the school hall.

An Easter service is performed during the Easter period by Year 3 and Year 4 and a Leaver's Service is held at the end of the school year. These are all held in Coppull St John's church or the school hall.

WITHDRAWAL

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum, the distinct Christian vision of Coppull St John's and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.' If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at a mutual agreement. It may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

Samantha Abram
Head Teacher

Reviewed : September 2022

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