



Cropredy C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our vision is drawn from Psalm 23: ‘The Lord is my shepherd’

As a shepherd nurtures and provides for the flock, so we provide guidance, care and protection for every child, inspiring them to flourish, develop resilience and walk with confidence on their learning journey.

At Cropredy we live out this vision by offering a nurturing environment where children are motivated and inspired to have high expectations with a love of learning. We value the importance of our outdoor environment and believe that it offers children the opportunity to flourish, develop their thinking and build their resilience, using problem solving skills when facing difficulties and challenges. With guidance children are encouraged to embrace their unique individuality and celebrate diversity in a safe place. Our values reflect our ambition for our young people to be confident and responsible citizens for today and in the future.

Our vision is delivered and supported by six Christian Values, each one reflecting a different verse from Psalm 23:

Peace

He leads me beside still waters, he shall refresh my soul

Forgiveness

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long

Friendship

You spread a table before me, you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full

Respect

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want

Perseverance

He shall guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake

Trust

Though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me

Collective worship is central to the life of our school, worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

At its heart, our collective worship provides an opportunity for our children and staff to come together to learn, reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and with God. It steers our behaviour, guiding us in how we learn and play throughout the day. We learn about and endeavour to be good leaders and good followers.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and festivals
 - school values associated with our vision
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed
- worship God on their own terms

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology

The Pattern of Our Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms, outside in our beautiful rural setting and, on occasions, in church. We are guided by the six Christian values embedded in our vision (see page 2) and these underpin the teaching and worship when we assemble. We follow the seasons of the Church year and observe the significant festivals and special days that mark the Christian calendar. These include: Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Lent, Easter and Pentecost. In addition, we observe a Remembrance Day and have a special Leavers' Service as important parts of our Collective Worship Calendar.

The Organisation of our Worship

Worship is led by a member of staff, pupils, our vicar and other members of the community. On a weekly basis, one assembly focusses on praise mainly through singing, one is usually led by the vicar of our local church, one is led by the Headteacher and/or another teacher, one celebrates the achievements and gifts of our children and one is class based.

Parents are invited to attend our collective worship on special occasions and to join us when we worship in the church. This promotes cohesion within the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and the school work together to support the achievements and spiritual understanding of our children. Governors are welcome to attend our worship.

The Principles of Our Collective Worship

Our collective worship is **invitational** in that it aims to: nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice and encouraging pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy; provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives; provide a sense of occasion that is separate from but entirely supportive of the rest of the school day; foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared guardianship of it.

As part of the Christian faith, it is **inclusive** which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths in our worship. We recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which may exist in our school and local community. We create an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe, and focus upon issues and experiences which are relevant to the children. We foster active roles for the children, adults in the school and members of the local community in the preparation, participation and leadership of our collective worship.

It is **inspiring** and assists all learners in developing an increased awareness and provides opportunities to reflect upon fundamental issues about life and ask the 'big' questions. It endeavours to promote wide ownership of our Christian vision.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to the termly value, the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the underpinning values. The values are sufficiently broad to allow for a wide range of approaches which will ensure that they will be explored in all their fullness and from a variety of perspectives.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God, reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship. On at least a weekly basis, a class provides immediate feedback on how they received the worship by selecting their responses using coloured gem stones.

The range of activities suitable for worship is unlimited. Worship may begin with the lighting of a candle, a greeting and response, music, a period of quiet reflection or a prayer.

Worship Activities are Enabling

Our worship often includes familiar activities which enable worship, creating an ambience conducive to being open to the key messages and time of reflection. These may include:

- stories and readings

- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

The Legal Status of Collective Worship:

The School Standards and Framework Act of 1988 states that the three main legal requirements for collective worship are

Collective worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship in a community school, that *it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*, does not apply in a church school, where it should be clearly Christian.

The school must provide an act of collective worship for all children every day.

The act of collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular grouping eg. whole school, key stage or class unit.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Date of Policy: 11th March 2020

Review of Policy: March 2021

Review by Foundation Governors, Headteacher and Lead Teacher for RE and Collective Worship