

The Croft Primary School
Collective Worship Policy



Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to promote British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship will involve all members of the school coming together and participating in a whole school worship or key stage groups may gather individually. We expect everyone to take an active part in any act of worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This is made up of five assemblies, which are normally for the whole-school.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children attempt to behave in an appropriate way as best

they can. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local groups and organisations conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school's PSHE curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to worship on special occasions and we encourage them to attend, 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.

Organization of collective worship during Covid-19 pandemic

In line with Government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-school> classes will be kept apart as much as possible to prevent the spread of the virus, meaning that whole school worship in the hall will not take place until restrictions are lifted. However, collective worship will continue to take place in individual classes led by the class teacher, following the themes and topics in planned for the whole school. Weekly celebration assembly will take place in each individual class using interactive the 'Teams' facility when appropriate to share and celebrate achievements and this may be led by different members of staff including the Head Teacher.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher and R.E. co-ordinator keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the Head Teacher to monitor the policy and practice of Collective worship.

Adopted: September 2020

Review Due September 2021