



CROWTHORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Status of Policy	Date
Reviewed	Every 2 years
Ratified by governors	December 2025
Review date:	December 2027

Our school policies reflect our vision of

*Inspiring and enabling our school community to live life to the full,
promoting excellence and nurturing
respect, compassion, honesty, resilience and collaboration.*

John 10 v 10:

Jesus said: "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full"



CROWTHORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The collective worship policy at Crowthorne CE Primary School reflects the school's Christian vision, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Diocese of Oxford. It has taken into account Pupil Voice and has been adapted in response to feedback received from children. Collective worship is central to the life and ethos of the school. It shapes our approach to others, what we do in school and how we model our Christian vision and values to the children. Through its content, collective worship encourages all members of the school community to live life to the full and provides prompts for considering what this might look like for each individual.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship at Crowthorne CE Primary School aims to provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- worship God and reflect on Christian values and Biblical teachings
- flourish spiritually and develop their understanding of spirituality
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together eg festivals, school values, individual achievements
- develop a reflective approach to living which encourages understanding of and an invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place daily for every child not withdrawn by their parents.
- reflect the school's aims

This means that collective worship will reflect the traditions of worship within the Church of England, whilst being invitational, inclusive and inspirational, valuing people from all backgrounds and positions of faith.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Crowthorne CE Primary School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this, it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to respond at an age appropriate level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The governors are responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and in consultation with the headteacher. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship:

1. HT prepares a programme for collective worship and themes for each week.
2. HT observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected bi-annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms, other locations in school and sometimes in church. It also occurs at a variety of times in the day but is always designed to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. The vicar at our local Parish Church and other members of the church ministry team lead collective worship regularly in school.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The termly programme lists themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly planning enables the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship. Learning about religious festivals from non-Christian faiths are included within the plan.

Visitors are regularly invited to collective worship and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Our Collective Worship usually follows a consistent format, including two prayers that invite participation from all:

GATHER: How we signify that our time together for Collective Worship has begun

ENGAGE: The main content or message of our Collective Worship

RESPOND: An opportunity for everyone to respond to the content/message personally or collectively

SEND: How we signify the end of our Collective Worship and the return to the school day

Prayer is often included in our acts of worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites pupils to participate but ensures this is an individual choice. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and 'God' reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our 'School Prayer' is used regularly in both whole school and class acts of collective worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices and, on occasions, times together are used to launch whole school events such as Science Week or World Book Day

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, children and adults, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never designed to indoctrinate or portray any particular beliefs or views as more or less valid than others.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. Staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, as we are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Organisation of Collective Worship**
- Appendix 2: School Prayer**
- Appendix 3: Guide to Collective Worship for Staff**

Appendix 1: Collective Worship: Schedule

The following is a typical collective worship schedule across the week although variations occur due to events taking place in school, national events or the availability of visitors.

Day	Time	Audience	Responsibility
Monday	9.55am	Whole School	Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team and Visitors
Tuesday	8.55am	Whole School / KS2	Reverend Wheatley and Mrs Norton
Wednesday	8.55am	Class Assemblies House Assemblies	Teacher House Captains/Teacher
Thursday	8.55am	Key Stages	Teachers (on a rota basis)
Friday	8.55am	Whole School	Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team

Appendix 2: School Prayer:

Dear God,

Help us to do the things we should

To be to others kind and good

In all we do and in all we say

To be more caring every day

Amen.

Appendix 3: Guide to Collective Worship for Staff



Collective Worship November 2025

Our Collective Worship is Invitational, Inspirational and Inclusive. We follow the same structure for most times of Collective Worship although there may be occasions (e.g. launching Science Week) when this is not appropriate.

The Prayer slides are saved here: R:\Assemblies

 1. Collective Worship Guide November 2...

 1. Collective Worship opening & closing ...

GATHER

Play some music

Prayer as a candle is lit or a candle is shown on the whiteboard:

We gather together and light this candle

To learn, reflect and to worship.

To share and give thanks

In the name of God,

Let it be so.

If you would like to write your own class gathering prayer, you are welcome to but you can use the whole school one if you prefer.

ENGAGE

This is the content of the time of collective worship that should link to the whole school weekly theme where possible. It could take various different forms:

- A Bible story
- A story with a moral/message or from a different faith
- Information or discussion on a world/national/local event – this may not link with the theme.
- Specific links to our school vision and values
- Resources from Spacemakers
- A video clip
- Consider whether you could make use of different senses
- Resources are available on the websites of Winchester, Guildford, St. Albans and York dioceses plus the following organisations: Engage Worship, SPCK Assemblies, Spinnaker Trust, Bob Hartman's Storyteller Bible, Rhyming Bible, C of E Education Office

The children fed back that they enjoy participating – this could be during the Collective Worship but could also be at the planning stage.

RESPOND

This is inviting a personal response. It could be a time of silence, involve a picture, a question, making a promise out loud or silently in the children's heads, a prayer, a song etc.

SEND

Leader: Are we ready to live life in all its fullness?

Children: Yes!

All together: Let us go into our day with respect, compassion, honesty, resilience and collaboration.