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# Croughton All Saints CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

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September 2025



*At Croughton School, we all belong as part of God's family. We foster each child's unique skills ensuring we are an inclusive and diverse community where each child feels safe and has a love of learning. We prepare children for their next journey in education and as global citizens by being respectfully curious, determined, resilient and kind.*

***'How wonderful, how pleasing it is when all God's people come together as one.'***  
***(Psalm 133:1)***

<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
S.Smith Headteacher/ C.Worship Lead	FGB	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	October 2027

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

### **Policy Statement**

In Croughton School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Croughton School, Collective Worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*<sup>1</sup>) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.<sup>2</sup>

### **Church of England Guidance**

Collective worship policy at Croughton School draws on guidance from the Church of England<sup>3</sup>. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

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<sup>1</sup> Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

<sup>2</sup> "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

## **Legal Requirements**

There must be a **daily act of collective worship** in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England, it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

## **The right of withdrawal**

In Croughton CE All Saints Primary School there maybe children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

## **Guiding Principles**

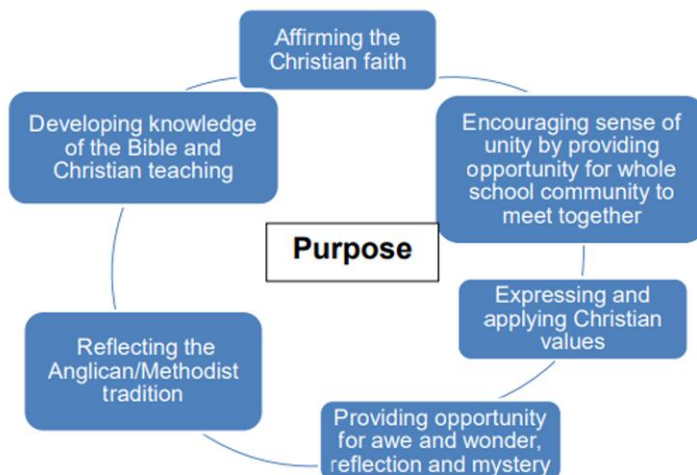
Collective worship in Croughton All Saints CE Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth

- Be the central vehicle by which the school’s vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

### Purpose of collective worship



### Organisation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the liturgical calendar, which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a

shared understanding of the long- and short-term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies, which are summarised in a leaflet to read on arrival. This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff. We aim to meet for worship every day in a variety of ways.

Monday - Whole school Worship – values focussed, led by the Headteacher

Tuesday - Praise and Worship

Wednesday – Class Worship or whole school led with visitor or staff.

Thursday – Clergy led

Friday - Celebration assembly. Families are invited.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

### **Expectations of pupils:**

Discipline within the school is based on making expectations clear to all pupils, being fair and consistent, listening to each other and addressing any issues as they arise. Our *Christian Values* underpin everything we do to ensure that pupils gain a greater understanding of the impact of their actions whether they are positive or negative. All staff have a contribution to make in this area. All pupils are expected to behave in a way which is respectful of others, their belongings and the school environment. Care, courtesy and consideration are underpinning elements of the school ethos linking closely to our termly school values.

Croughton All Saints CE Primary School has a pupil ethos committee. Children are selected at the start of each academic year. The members plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the Collective Worship Leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our parent suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Ethos Committee, during full governing body meetings, and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Peterborough.

### **Information Shared with Staff:**

*Children shall take part in a Daily Act of Worship although this can take place at any time of the day. In the busy school timetable this gathering is an important activity and should not be squeezed out.*

*In the context of worship in school, the aim is to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual. Giving pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community.*

*Our aim is to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place and where pupils' own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way.*

Children should be encouraged to reflect on the ways in which worship affects the values, attitudes and spiritual dimensions of themselves, the learning community and society. It should be a celebration and a time for reflecting on things that have worth and meaning to the community.

### **The aims of collective worship**

This list below is not exhaustive; however, they show how collective worship can contribute to SMSC and the intellectual development of pupils.

#### **Spiritual development**

- Do the pupils have an opportunity to experience worship of God, if appropriate?
- Are feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy evoked through collective worship?
- In what ways can pupils respond to the aesthetic eg music, poetry, art, literature?
- How do pupils explore a sense of the sacred?
- Do pupils explore their place in the world and their search for meaning?
- Are pupils given an opportunity for reflection and contemplation?
- Are pupils asked ultimate questions?

#### **Moral development**

- How do we encourage respect for others and care for the environment?
- Do pupils understand the importance of commitment in human living?
- How far can pupils foster the virtue of fairmindedness and a willingness to consider the views and values of others?
- In what ways do we help pupils understand the balance between rights and responsibilities?
- How do we help pupils make informed moral choices?

#### **Social development**

- How do we develop the school as an inclusive community through collective worship?
- How do we promote a feeling of community, with a shared ethos and values?
- How do we provide an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with school governors and other community leaders?
- In what ways do we celebrate gifts, talents and achievements through collective worship?
- Do pupils know a sense of belonging through collective worship?

#### **Cultural development**

- How does collective worship reflect the school as a diverse community?
- Do we provide an opportunity for pupils to become acquainted with local leaders, including religious ones?
- How do we celebrate cultural and religious festivals?
- Do we give opportunities for pupils to consider the dynamic nature of culture and how it impacts on society?

#### **Intellectual development** -Do our pupils have opportunities to:

- Empathise with others?
- Interpret beliefs, symbols, stories and poetry?
- Apply insights gained into daily life?
- Analyse beliefs and evidence?
- Evaluate ideas and values and make links between them?

### **Worship procedure:**

- Worship begins with music as children walk in.
- Worship then has a call and response from leader and pupils as well as the lighting of a candle.
- A key message is shared.
- A song will be sung.
- Reflection,
- Closing prayer and a closing call with eth candle blown act marks the end of worship.
- Music is played as children leave.
- This is followed each day apart from Friday where there is a shorter worship aspect.

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.