



# Collective Worship Policy

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs”

(Psalm 100:2)

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
Biannually	June 2025	Kate Lewis	June 2027

## Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Janis Dean	Janis Dean	June 2025
Head Teacher	Kate Lewis	Kate Lewis	June 2025

## Statement of intent

**At Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** 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.

In **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** worship is central to the life of schools 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.

In **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** 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>

## 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

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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)

groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship at **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions

The school governing body 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 **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** there are some 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 at **Crowcombe and Stogumber Church of England Primary Schools** 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.

## Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

## How Collective worship is organised

### Leadership

- Collective worship is lead by all teaching staff. Key Stage and Whole School Collective worship is predominantly lead by the Headteacher or Key Stage Leader.
- We have weekly visits for collective worship from members of the local clergy / churches and visitors such as open the book.
- We hold collective worship for key events in the local churches and the children have an active role with these. These include half termly family services.

### Planning, monitoring and evaluation

- Collective worship is planned termly by the headteacher and collective worship ambassadors focussing on embedding the school vision and values with explicit links made between Bible stories and the Christian values and vision of the school.
- The headteacher and collective worship ambassadors hold termly review meeting to reflect on collective worship and monitor its impact.
- Collective worship ambassadors gather wider pupil voice in regards to collective worship throughout the school year.
- Celebratory events and key events in the Christian calendar are planned by class teachers with the classes to ensure all pupils are involved.
- Consideration is made to the schools being located on two sites. Each site follows the same collective worship plans and structure and each week there is:
  - Vision and Values Collective Worship
  - Sing and Praise Collective Worship
  - Class Collective Worship
  - Celebrate and Praise Collective Worship
- The structure of collective worship is the same for all sessions. This includes:
  - Gathering – Lighting of a candle to represent ‘God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit’
  - Gathering Liturgy – ‘Jesus is the light of the World’ – ‘Shine upon us’.
  - Engaging and responding element to all collective worships sessions. This includes collective worship ambassadors leading a prayer
  - Sending Liturgy – ‘God is Love’ – ‘Let us love each other’.

### Policy review

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

This policy will be reviewed **biannually** by the headteacher, ethos committee and collective worship ambassadors. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **June 2027**