

Croscombe Church of England (V.A.) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

We are a Church of England Primary School and this policy has been written with reference to our Christian foundation.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual, moral, cultural and social issues
- To enable children to explore their beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community
- To promote a common Christian ethos with shared values
- To promote positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school community coming together and participating in a group worship activity.

As a Voluntary Aided Church School all collective worship is of a Christian character. We base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship either as a whole school or in key stages.

We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that this is a special time for worship and reflection. Children and staff respect this quiet thoughtful time as an opportunity to listen and participate.

Atmosphere is enhanced through the use of music, candles and images which all help focus attention, particularly in times of stillness and reflection.

Worship is normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff. It is also led once a week by one of the local ordained or lay ministers and occasionally by representatives of other Christian denominations or organisations. Children are encouraged to take an active role in leading worship.

Themes for worship are taken from the traditions and scriptures of the Christian faith. We observe festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Sharing assemblies celebrate children's work and achievements across the curriculum. They also provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

The attendance of parents/carers and the wider community is encouraged for some celebration assemblies and acts of worship, in order to promote home/school and the community working together in partnership. The attendance of Governors is always welcome.

Other forms of collective worship can include daily prayers at the beginning of the day, before lunch and at the end of the day. These prayers can reflect the daily events, significant events in the children's lives, world wide current affairs and the church calendar. Each class has a collection of prayers displayed or available that can be used at these times. These prayer/ reflection times provide the children with the opportunity to link the teachings of the Christian faith with the social, moral, spiritual, and cultural aspects of their own lives.

All Children and staff are expected to respect times of collective worship.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from collective worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher will keep a record of any children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor with support from the RE Coordinator. The named governor liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Signed.....

Date June 2011