

# Crosslee Community Primary School



**Collective Worship Policy**

**November 2021**

**Review Date: Aut 2 2023**

## **Introduction**

At Crosslee Primary School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum, connect our children with events happening in the wider world and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

As a UNICEF Rights, Respecting School, we uphold the charter on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Collective Worship upholds Article 12; respecting the views of the child and article 14; freedom of thought, belief and religion.

## **Collective worship**

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring school ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship.

The central aims of Collective Worship at Crosslee Primary School are to:

- provide our children with a broadly Christian based character to Collective Worship
- provide regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop and understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others and promote equality.
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication
- promote the values of participation as active citizens, recognising the successes and challenges this brings.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At Crosslee Primary School we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include respect, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. As a Rights Respecting School we recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Crosslee Primary School is an inclusive activity.

Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is

withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

### **Context of Collective worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	Whole school based worship including Values and Ethos targets - Remote
Tuesday	Class – Values and Ethos targets
Wednesday	Singing and celebration - Remote
Thursday	Class Assembly/ Visitor Assembly – Dance Studio / Hall / Class
Friday	Celebration Assembly – Remote / Hall

Themes are planned for over the school year including religious festivals, known national and international and school based events. Our local vicar, Eddie and Christian plant, Sweetline provide school assemblies for special occasions such as Harvest, Advent, Easter and regularly over the school year. They also attend school to visit classes and the school attends events at the church during Autumn 2, leading up to Christmas and Spring 2 leading up to Easter. We are presently also running a JAM club, Jesus and me which forms part of our Collective worship and celebration with specific year groups and their families.

Assemblies follow various formats and over each half-term will include a range of the following aspects:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence

### **Prayer**

The use of prayer has led to a great deal of debate. We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayer which distance children, but gives them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g. 'And now in a moment of stillness,' 'listen to the words of a well-known Christian pray,' 'let's have our thought of the day.' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions. We also recognise that it is not always necessary to have a prayer and that the use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

### **Visitors**

We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship, but we require them to adhere to our values. All visitors providing assemblies and other religious provision are issued with this policy, and unless otherwise agreed, will fit into the theme for the week.

### **Evaluation**

We have a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, poems, pictures and posters and electronic resources all of which we hope contribute to a

stimulating and thoughtful time for our children. In addition, we assess the success of our Collective Worship programme against the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- Good order
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

### **Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, encourage and celebrate their talents, connect and participate in their communities and to promote their spiritual and moral development.