

Crofton Hammond Infant School
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Policy approved:	March 2024	FGB
Signed:	<i>S Hosmer</i>	Headteacher
Signed:	<i>W Shirley</i>	Chair of Governors
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Monitored and evaluated by:	Curriculum Committee	Annually

CROFTON HAMMOND INFANT SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

PRINCIPLES

- As a school we follow the statutory requirements for collective worship.
- Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.
- Collective worship in Crofton Hammond Infant School underpins all aspects of school life.
- Collective worship in school is open to all staff and pupils and no assumptions are made about their personal commitment.
- Children are taught to respect a range of religious beliefs in line with British Values.

Whilst awareness of other religious traditions and beliefs may be raised, we recognise that the proper place for fuller exploration of these issues is in religious education lessons. We interpret 'Worship' as:

"a form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us"

The amazing Fact of Quaker Worship – G.H. Gorman

AIMS

To develop:

- Social and Moral values.
- Spiritual awareness.
- Knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship.
- Awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.

To provide a space in time which:

- Allows a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day.
- Provides an opportunity to share the school values with the children regularly
- Provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements.
- Facilitates the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing.
Encourages pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation.
- Allows for celebration and reflection on things held to be of worth.

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

The majority of acts of collective worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. The majority of themes explored will be appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.

A collective act of worship should provide opportunities to:

- **Focus on a particular issue** by providing a stimulus.
- **Encourage Reflection** of a theme.
- **Respond in a variety of ways**, such as;
 - prayer – children are invited to join in prayers only if they wish or if a member of a local church is visiting
 - singing

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- movement
- experiencing stillness/thinking time

Develop a sense of reverence

We aim to achieve this over a period of time through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the worthiness of those values held to be of central importance to our community.

We aim to create an atmosphere of calm prior to the start of Collective Worship, therefore the children will be expected to be silent from the time they leave their classrooms. Music will be played for entering and leaving the hall.

Collective worship themes are linked to the school values and will react to current events, festivals and events happening in school.

Who Leads the acts of collective worship?

Monday – Headteacher Values assembly

Tuesday – In class reflection

Wednesday – Headteacher assembly on a current affair/ equality or safeguarding.

Thursday – Deputy Headteacher emotion/ wellbeing assembly

Friday – Singing assembly with reflection time.

Children in Year R will not attend assembly in the hall during their first term, but the Head and Deputy Headteachers will lead assembly in the Year R class and the theme and values elements will be covered during 'Sparkle Time' sessions with their Key Person.

Visitors to the school may occasionally lead acts of worship e.g. Ministers, Governors and other members of our local community. Such visitors should be personally known or met beforehand and should be well-briefed on the school's requirements.

Children who are withdrawn from collective worship at their parents' request, will be supervised by a teacher, class assistant or the office staff. However, the class teachers and/or Headteacher should discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child. With the parents' agreement, a child could be present during collective worship, but not take part in it. Such a possibility would obviously need to be discussed.

A variety of methods of presentation will be used to help stimulate and maintain the children's interest in collective worship, e.g.

- stories
- poems
- artefacts
- movement/practical activity
- pictures
- video clips
- Discussion
- Remembering

Both the Headteacher and the RE Co-ordinator will ensure records and resources are maintained and monitor content and quality of acts of collective worship.

Relevant books for Collective Worship are stored in the Headteacher's room.