



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



Policy for Collective Worship

Creeping St Mary Church of England Primary School

Vision

As a Church of England school, our vision is that worship is primarily an opportunity to encounter and meet with God. This time is an opportunity for all to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is not simply a statutory duty. Collective Worship (CW) enables all to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings. During this time, we aim for all to experience, affirm and celebrate God and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Recognising that not all staff or children have a Christian faith, we welcome everyone to CW and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect.

1. Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of CW.
2. The daily act of CW should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement of the Heart of Suffolk Education Trust, in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of CW in Church schools must be Christian in character, showing respect towards all faiths. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
5. The daily act of CW will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their Act of CW elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of CW in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the CW is linked to the Trust Deeds.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

2. Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of CW that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our school. We use the following indicators:

BIBLICAL- the Bible is used to encounter the teachings of Jesus and as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer and other verses of

scripture.

LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

EUCCHARISTIC – we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship, either in RE or through our own school celebration with the local priest.

SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

SYMBOLIC – as a focus for reflection we use Christian symbols as well as those from other faiths.

ECUMENICAL – we work with other local Christian denominations.

DIVERSE – we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g. through work with the link diocese of Kagera, through valuing both meditation and silence, dance, prayer, reflection, story, quiet songs and louder expressions of praise, etc.

We seek to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with thought given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music. We foster links with the local parish Church, involving clergy in leading us and joining us for CW. We aim to visit the parish church at least six times a year for key Christian festivals and to offer the opportunity for children to experience worship within the church building. We aim for our CW to be creative and to inspire pupils into action.

3. Connections with other Christian denominations and other faiths

The Anglican Communion is part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. We work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of CW. We recognise that some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which no-one's integrity is compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves, and there is no pressure to participate or to believe.

4. Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from CW. If a parent is considering withdrawing their child from CW they should contact the Headteacher in writing. However, it is hoped that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act. This includes the school continuing to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from CW. We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to further legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

5. Aims and Purpose

In relation to the issues of withdrawal, it is helpful for parents to be aware of the aims and purpose of CW as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes

6. Planning

Planning for CW must be led by the Headteacher but may be delegated to an appropriate member of staff. Responsibility may not be delegated. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each week follows a structure whereby we celebrate diversity and respect in No Outsiders on Monday, Tuesday we learn about the words and their meaning as we sing together and worship through song, Wednesday we look towards our wider world and community as custodians of the world, on Thursday we hear stories from the Bible, and on Friday we celebrate our amazing achievements with the whole school community.

Our six school values are: Community, Wisdom, Hope, Perseverance, Respect and Love. This was created by the children which enables them to form meaningful connections with each other and to take ownership. We recognise examples of these in action and celebrate these on our school tree. We also focus on working together for the benefit of all. Each term we have a morning within which the children explore a selection of activities that epitomises this. All of these values are encouraged throughout daily school life.

The Headteacher must ensure that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans.

Collective Worship Lead develops the plans and the Collective Worship team brings this to life on a daily basis. They also help plan and participate in upcoming services.

Our preferred approach is to follow the pattern of *Gather, Engage, Respond, Send* as this approach offers a pattern which both staff and children can use and is useful for evaluation as well.

4 children from years 5 and 6 are nominated and elected by their class peers to form the school worship committee.

7. Organisation

An act of CW is to be held daily which may involve the whole school, individual classes or key stage groups meeting together. An act of whole school CW is normally led jointly by a member of staff and the young CW leaders. We may also invite local clergy or other suitably qualified worship leaders to lead CW. Children are encouraged to be involved in the worship via a variety of means such as, answering questions, acting out Bible stories and reflecting. Each act of CW lasts for 15 minutes. Aspects of CW are discussed termly in a staff meeting and by the elected CW leaders.

8. Resources

A budget for CW is allocated which is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. Assembly books, access to websites and age-appropriate Bibles are all available.

9. Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development

SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum and acts of CW provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and value the cultures of others. Contributions to SMSC made by acts of worship may be inspected by Ofsted.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation / SIAMS Inspection

The Headteacher, CW staff leader, pupils and the Governing Body are all involved with monitoring acts of CW. We monitor and evaluate the impact of CW, through observations and perceptions, using advice given by the Diocese and requirements of the current SIAMS inspection criteria. The aim of Monitoring is the improvement of practice

and better understanding of the ways in which CW is an expression of the school's Christian vision and to what extent it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Staff have opportunities to discuss plans and the impact of CW.

11. Inclusion

In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability, religion, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make CW accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.