



Peterborough Diocese
Education Trust



ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Collective Worship Policy

This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices*. (For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the *Appendices* – see the individual academy website).

FINAL September 2019

Date for Next Revision – September 2020

Collective Worship Policy

“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”

Rationale

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that Collective Worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, Collective Worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a special time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times; □ Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of Collective Worship – see *Appendix 1*.

Practicalities of Organisation

Our academies hold a daily act of Collective Worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values each academy has chosen.

These are, for example: Thankfulness, Respect, Courage, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Trust, Compassion, Generosity, Hope, Justice, Truth and Acceptance. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

Resources

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

Right of Withdrawal

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend Collective Worship, and we discuss this with parents/carers at the time of admission. However, any parent/carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Appendix 1

Name of Academy: Cranford CE Primary School

Academy specific details

Working together for all of our children to **prosper**, be full of **hope**
and be excited about their **future**.

At Cranford, our focus is the whole child. We aim for all of our children to achieve well, to be happy and to make lifelong memories. They will do this in a safe, loving environment; committed to helping them become the best they can be in all areas of life.

*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at Cranford C E Primary School, Collective Worship is at the heart of our life and work. *We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in a contemporary Christian style, which is consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.*

Practicalities of Organisation

Our daily act of Collective Worship forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in Appendix 2. We have a group of pupils from Year 6 who 'set up' the school hall ready for the act of collective worship and who also light the electric candles for the moment of reflection and read the daily prayer.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each academy day.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We all regard it as a special time and expect pupils to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

All members of staff lead whole school Collective Worship on a rota basis but we also frequently enjoy sessions lead by someone from the Diocese, CSALT (Christian School Assembly Link Team) or CAT (Christian Assemblies Team). One of our Church Governors also frequently delivers acts of collective worship. These all bring greater variety to our worship.

Parents and carers are invited to our Friday Celebration Assembly and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This promotes the community spirit of the school. Our welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

Content

We also hold Collective Worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Resources

WE utilise a range of resources to inform our acts of Collective Worship:

- "36 Ready-to-Read Assemblies for Collective Worship: Taking Your School Through the Bible Story in a Year" by Helen Lings; published by BRF (The Bible Reading Fellowship)
- The Lion Storyteller Bible
- The Lion Bible for Children
- All are kept centrally in the staff resource area. Song words and PowerPoints are kept electronically on the staff drive.

Useful websites to be used include:

www.assemblies.org

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.imaginer.co.uk

Appendix 2

A typical day's act of collective worship would follow a similar format to the lay out below, with our pupils leading the whole school through the prayer after lighting the candles that reflect the Holy Trinity:

God promises to send help

Contemporary option

Bible reading: A new, just leader is promised

Then listen to this, government of David! It's bad enough that you make people tired with your pious, timid hypocrisies, but now you're making God tired. So the Master is going to give you a sign anyway. Watch for this: A girl who is presently a virgin will get pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us). By the time the child is twelve years old, [he will be] able to make moral decisions.

But there'll be no darkness for those who were in trouble.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light!

Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy!

The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—all their whips and cudgels and curses—is gone.

For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going with fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

ISAIAH 7:13–15; 9:1–2, 4, 6–7 (THE MESSAGE)

Thought for the day

Instruction: Ask the pupils to think of the superheroes that films are made about and give you examples of them. Ask what these superheroes have in common, leading to the conclusion that they all fight an evil force that is threatening people's lives, and make things better.

Text: If you remember last week's reading, you will recall that things were not good in the land of Israel. The ten commandments weren't being kept. Especially, the poorest people were being robbed and even killed by the rich, and there was no justice, or fairness, when people went to court about it.

The prophets, who spoke for God, warned that the country would be overrun by invading enemies because it was so bad.

But then, in all this fear and darkness, the prophet Isaiah saw another future. He said that God would send a new leader, a baby born into a royal household. This leader would be different: he would be honest and fair and defend the weak against the powerful. He would be like a light shining in a dark night when you are afraid.

Instruction: Ask the pupils to think (but not to give answers) about whether they were ever promised something that they really wanted or needed, but then they had to wait a long time for it—so long that they almost forgot that it had been promised or that they wanted it.

Text: New children were born into the palace; some of them became good, just rulers, while others were proud and unkind. With each new start, the people's hopes rose, and then disappointment set in, especially as powerful nations all around Israel began to attack, invade and capture the people of the land. 'Where is this new David-like leader who will solve all our problems?' they asked.

They were in for an 800-year-long wait! But God hadn't forgotten his promise; the time was just not yet right. They had to wait until Jesus was born. In our lives, too, sometimes we want something now, urgently, but now would not be the best time. When it does happen, we can see that the waiting time was right, and be glad.

Learning to wait and be patient is really hard for us, but Christians believe that it helps us to grow in character. God does not forget us, and he wants us to keep asking him to give us the good things that we need. They are not always what we want, which is different! I may want a million pounds now, but I may not need it, and it might not be good for me.

Song suggestion

- O come, O come, Emmanuel (from the 'Great O Antiphons', trans. John Mason Neale)

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for caring when things are not going well for us, and for having a rescue plan when things go wrong. Please help us to learn to tell you about our problems and to trust you for good solutions. Amen