

Copthorne C.E. Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

**Approved March 2025
To be reviewed March 2028**

Collective Worship Policy

At Copthorne CE Junior School we believe that it is important to meet together for a Christian based daily act of collective worship which fulfils the legal requirements. This we believe is important in exploring our faith and values as we grow as a school community together. We value the opportunity that Collective Worship provides for our children and aim to facilitate everyone to explore their own spirituality through worship and quiet reflection.

The character of the worship in our school is distinctively Christian with a generous attitude towards traditional and contemporary expressions of faith. We also believe there is wisdom and spiritual insight of other world religions that can deepen our understanding of faith. We encourage sound moral practices appropriate for the children whatever their family and religious background.

Collective Worship is organised by the RE Leader, Deputy Headteacher & Headteacher, who draw on the knowledge and experience of others appropriate to the subject and theme being followed.

Aims

- To encourage and develop a sense of community in the school, reinforcing our Christian ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school.
- To support children in understanding what Christian worship is and the rituals involved in the Christian faith and calendar
- To provide opportunity for pupils and staff to meet as a whole school
- To be inclusive, meeting the needs of all members of the school Community
- To provide opportunity to reflect on life and explore an individual and a corporate sense of spirituality
- To introduce children to worship through singing, reading, storytelling and prayer
- To encourage children to reflect quietly

Organisation and management

The school holds daily worships where pupils meet together. These worships have a variety of aims, content and experience.

- Worships take place in the school hall or classroom
- Teachers supervise the entrance of their class and music is played at the beginning and end of Worship.
- Within these Worships the daily act of worship takes place.
- Collective worship is organised by the RE leader, Deputy Headteacher & the Headteacher. The Vicar, volunteers, and other teachers partake in its running.
- A termly programme of Worship themes, is produced and distributed to all staff. This is part of the annual programme organised by the RE leader and Deputy Headteacher that includes special occasions and Festivals

- including Christian Festivals and Festivals from other faiths, eg Harvest, Christmas, Divali, Passover, Hanukkah, Eid ul-Fitr
- Records of Worship and themes are kept in a folder on the school server. The content will vary and will be more explicitly Christian with stories from the Bible on some days and other moral stories but linked to the Core Value on others. Children also reflect on what worship has taught them, what it means to them and how this can be applied to every day life.
- All teachers attend a minimum of two days a week of collective worship, and non-teaching staff at least once a half term.
- If a staff member wishes to withdraw from collective worship, they have the right to do so in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA). Section 59(2)(a). They should speak with the Headteacher.
- The Collective Worship policy is available on the school's website.

Weekly programme

- Monday Whole School led by Headteacher
- Tuesday Singing worship
- Wednesday Whole School led by the Deputy Headteacher
- Thursday Whole School Worship led by Church Leaders or "Open the Bible" church community members or Class reflection from worship
- Friday Whole school celebration

Note- Worship may be altered and swapped due to school trips, visits etc.

Time allocation - Worship is planned for 20 mins each day and all make time for collective worship.

Resources

A range of resources for Collective Worship are available on the server or in school.

Community

The school has strong links with the local Church, St John's. A team of volunteers called "Open the Bible" read and act out stories from the Bible on a weekly basis. The Vicar, Father Wim, or his curate, are regular visitors and lead the worship at least once a month. The Church also supports Religious Education teaching in school. Every half term the whole school will worship in the local church. We also hold Christian celebration Worship in the Church eg Harvest, Remembrance, Carol Service, Easter Service & Leavers' Service.

If parents wish to withdraw their children from either R.E. or the collective worship they have a right to do so in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988 (circular 3/89), and should contact the Headteacher.