

Collective Worship policy 2020

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**This policy will be reviewed every three years,
and following any concerns and / or
updates to National and Local guidance or procedures**

Collective Worship Policy 2020

Collective Worship

At Porter Croft Church of England Primary Academy, collective worship is an opportunity to come together to share, reflect and explore personal beliefs, issues of identity, and questions of meaning and purpose. The school values underpin our acts of worship and are explored from a Christian point of view. We also explore wider global issues, different faiths and celebrations in our collective worship program. In this way collective worship supports inclusion as well as building community cohesion and this is achieved through;

- Encouraging a sense of awe, wonder and enquiry
- Exploring moral values and how these impact on individuals
- Exploring key events that influence individuals, families, the school and the wider community
- Exploring emotions and feelings
- Discussing cultural identity and helping children to appreciate and understand diverse cultures
- Actively promote respect and tolerance

Philosophical statement

Porter Croft is a Converter Church of England primary Academy which is rich in social, ethnic and cultural diversity. Although Porter Croft is a Church of England school, 50% of our cohort are Muslim, which adds to our diversity. Porter Croft aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of all faiths, whilst promoting Christian values through the experiences it offers all its pupils. Our collective worship is a reflection of our diversity and school values.

Summary of the theological rationale of Porter Croft

- 'Together we are Porter Croft': Koinonia affirms individuality and togetherness
- The love of God, and given by God, is translated into compassion and justice
- Diversity is celebrated, building a culture of tolerance and respect
- We strive to ensure each child achieves their full potential
- An enriched and thankful curriculum leads us into depth and wisdom

Legal requirements

Collective worship is a legal requirement of school under the 1944 Education Act, with subsequent legislation in 1988 and 1996. It is the responsibility of the head teacher and the governors to ensure this requirement is acted upon. The law states:

- All pupils must attend every day unless withdrawn by their parents
- It can take place at any time of day
- It need not involve the whole school at once but can be for any existing group, eg key stages or classes
- It must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief
- It should [take account of] be appropriate to the 'family backgrounds of pupils and to their age and aptitude'. (1988 Education Act)

Aims

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response (through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered)
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values
- To reinforce positive attitudes

Key characteristics of collective worship

The word worship comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'weorthscipe' and can be defined as either 'the adoration of God or a Supreme Being' or 'to honour, value and praise someone or something of worth'. In this way Porter Croft Primary ensures that collective worship creates an atmosphere whereby genuine worship may take place and where pupils own beliefs are valued and that everyone has the opportunity to respond in their own way.

- Use of the values reflection journal symbols for reflection
- Lighting a candle, or using a candle symbol
- Period of quiet for reflection
- Prayer
- Songs
- Pupil participation
- Bible stories

Organisation

Collective worship is daily, the whole school gather together in the hall.

Monday- Head teacher introduces the value of the week

Tuesday – various teachers lead the worship, and also the School Council and class assemblies leading this session on a rota

Wednesday – members of the clergy joined by a leader of the Islamic faith, Open book, and teacher led worship

Thursday – teacher led worship

Friday- good work, focusing on achievement and behaviour

Planning

The co-ordinator for collective worship is the head teacher. It is jointly planned and led by different members of staff throughout the term. The overview is shared with staff each term and is available on the staff room notice board. It is also shared with the vicar and the co-ordinator for Open the Book sessions so that they can plan in line with the schools objectives.

The right to withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Pupils can still attend the 'assembly' part of the proceedings.

Staff may also withdraw from collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience.

Staff, pupils and visitors contribution to collective worship

Collective worship provides an opportunity for different members of the school community, including pupils, to plan and lead acts of worship. Visitors from different faiths are welcome, by invitation, to lead collective worship to bring a new perspective for our pupils.

Evaluation of collective worship

The schools provision of collective worship will be evaluated, through on-going discussions and feedback, to consider whether it meets the needs of our pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims of our school.

