

## **The Crossways Schools**

### **Collective Worship Policy** *Learning Together, Stronger Together*

#### **Rationale**

The Crossways Schools gives a high priority to the spiritual development of all in the school community and considers collective worship to be an important part of daily life. Our school values are fundamental to the ethos and teaching within Crossways and have links with Christian values, however the schools exert no pressure to believe. We aim to develop independent and responsible children who have a balanced, tolerant and informed view of the world and the different beliefs and cultures in it.

Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for a time of togetherness within school, to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore the children's own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce attitudes.

#### **Aims**

1. To enable children to explore a variety of forms of worship.
2. To operate within the legal requirements for Collective Worship (Education Act 1988).
3. To develop a sense of community within the school and of being part of the wider community.
4. To lead children to an awareness of values, attitudes and beliefs which are fundamental to Christianity and other world faiths and which the school upholds as a community.
5. To celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, for the school and for the wider community.
6. To provide a framework enabling children to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
7. To help children develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.
8. To enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.
9. To create a "sense of worship" in a regular shared event which is at the heart of the schools' life, coming together for a common purpose and offering children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Collective Worship will take place on a daily basis.
2. Collective Worship will be of a broadly Christian nature, but structured in such a way that children from many religious backgrounds, including those whose background reflects no particular faith, can enter into the worship and gain from their involvement.
3. Themes for collective worship are planned as an integral part of school planning and a termly programme will be created for themes based on the schools' values. Celebration of major festivals will also be a feature of Collective Worship when appropriate.
4. Collective Worship will be led by the Executive Head, the teachers or visitors to the school.
5. Children will be encouraged to become involved in Collective Worship through interaction, reflection, involvement in the story and singing.
6. Collective Worship will regularly take the form of celebration of the schools' values and of the children's achievements both within and outside of school.
7. We acknowledge that music and silence play a valuable part in Collective Worship. Singing, listening to prayers and taking part in reflection times will feature strongly in our worship.

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8. The physical conditions will, as far as possible, be made to be conducive to worship, reflection and contemplation; e.g. a quiet time. Resources will be used to aid this process and to act as a stimulus for the worship; e.g. music, poetry, story, video, pictures, a lighted candle.
9. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship if they wish (1996 Education Act, Section 359). Confirmation of this in writing after discussion with the Head will be needed before withdrawal occurs. In this case pupils will be supervised by the school, but curriculum provision will not be made. Teachers may choose not to participate in acts of worship (1998 Education Act, section 60).

### **Conclusion**

In a secure and tolerant setting which encourages enquiry and sensitivity, Collective Worship will contribute, together with other disciplines, to a positive approach to life.

This policy has been approved by the staff and governors of the schools and will be used in conjunction with other school policies.

Policy written by: MT/ SLT

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