



GREAT ECCLESTON COPP  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE  
WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed and updated July 2019

Copp Cares

*"Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action." (1 John 3:18)*

*Talk to me and I will listen, show me and I will remember,  
Involve me and I will learn, encourage me and I will thrive.*

*Copp, the village school, where everyone is special and where God will help us grow.*

The provision of *Collective Worship* conforms to the Blackburn Diocese Policy. Our school is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School where collective worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed, sealed on 6th February 1866. *Collective Worship* in church schools is governed by both the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The *Collective Worship* provided by the school is in accordance with the Trust Deed.

*Collective worship* contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of the school and, therefore, to the Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school. It is at the centre of our school life and is seen as an essential part of all pupils' education.

Although we are a Church of England school, forms of worship within our denominations differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship which we believe underpins our Christian ethos.

Through a variety of approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These will include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- the nature of human beings as children of God and part of his creation
- Jesus as the Son of God, who through his life, death and Resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
- the core Christian values
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus as a source of inspiration and guidance
- the importance of prayer
- the need for private thoughts and reflections
- the central symbols of Christianity
- the cycle of the church year.

Worship in school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of the pupils in our care. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and time for quiet thought in the curriculum generally; this will include prayer before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Close links are maintained with the Parish Church of St. Anne's and Elswick United Reformed Church. St. Anne's Church is used for services when celebrating different events of the church year. This varies each year but regularly includes Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

#### Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	9am	Whole school led by Rev Jim Williams
Tuesday		Class worship led by pupils
Wednesday	9am	Whole school led by Rev Paul Hunter
Thursday	9am	Whole school led by Mrs Beverley Melvin (Headteacher)
Friday	9am	Celebration worship led by staff in rotation

The staff will contribute to the delivery of the daily act of worship. During collective worship we will, through the values and beliefs proclaimed in hymns, prayers and story and by the atmosphere created, stimulate and reinforce the Christian values which the school upholds, inform its whole curriculum and set the tone of its pastoral relationships.

Daily Worship will last approximately 20 minutes. Children are encouraged to enter and leave in a quiet and reflective manner. Copp School places such importance on worship that all staff and pupils are expected to attend. Whenever possible, no pupil will be withdrawn for extra tuition.

Approaches to worship will be as varied as possible - adult and pupil led, storytelling, music, drama, visual aids, role-play etc and children/adults will be consulted about the content/style of the worship on regular basis.

Collective Worship at Copp will:

- contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the school;
- create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship;
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith;
- develop links with the local Church;
- worship God through Jesus;
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and development of pupils;
- offer time for reflection and prayer.

Content will include:

- sharing feelings ;
- expressing concern for others;
- looking at the world, developing awe and wonder and giving thanks to God;
- exploring common values - how to treat others, self-discipline, good and evil;
- topical events - continuing issues such as starvation, peace and conflict;
- celebrating the curriculum - showing off learning;
- sharing and celebrating pupil achievements - in and outside school;
- stories, music, poetry, videos;
- Christian faith and history (including areas of RE Syllabus);
- opportunities to learn about the variety of faiths and cultures;
- prayer, hymns, time for reflection;
- direct involvement from the pupils.

Staff are provided with an outline of themes for worship as guidance and help where necessary rather than clearly defined topics. They frequently refer to the whole school Christian values for the particular half term if leading worship.

A variety of music will be played during this time. This music is based on the half termly theme and Christian values and is intended to provoke thought as the children wait for worship to begin.

A cloth, candle and a Bible will be placed on the table to symbolize that this is a time for worship and, where appropriate, a candle will be lit. Pupils are encouraged to be engaged in worship but also to have a time for reflection.

The Values Group is formed from children from Y2 to Y6 and their role includes:

- evaluating worship;
- monitoring worship areas;
- monitoring reflection areas;
- talking to other children about Christian values.

The display board in the hall is used to enhance the whole school themes and half-termly Christian values. These themes and values are also displayed in each classroom and around the school. Parents are kept informed about Christian values and worship through the whole school post on our Class Dojo site, the school website, the information board in the entrance and through half termly class communication. Classes display the focus Christian value for the half term but other values are displayed in class/around school and discussed, as appropriate.

### CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

We must remember that within this country there are varieties of culture within which children are brought up. These variations have their origins in such matters as age, ethnic inheritance, places of abode, social class, leisure preferences and religion.

Bearing in mind the ages and background of the children in our school, it is our responsibility to ensure that the children learn about the variety of faiths and cultures found in our society, with respect to such matters as jobs, diet, dress, religion, language, dialect, leisure pursuits and customs in:

- the children's own locality;
- other parts of the United Kingdom;
- other countries.

We shall still embrace Christianity as our first and foremost belief but throughout our work in RE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, we will teach the importance of mutual tolerance and respect of others and help the children in our care to recognize the widely shared values of love, peace and justice which is common to all faiths and at the core of Christian practice.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school brochure - *'Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and should approach the Headteacher if this is their wish. However, the teachings of the Gospel enter all aspects of the school. As a result, withdrawal of pupils from formal Religious Education or worship would not isolate them from the Anglican religious teaching which the school gives.'*

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese of Blackburn. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.