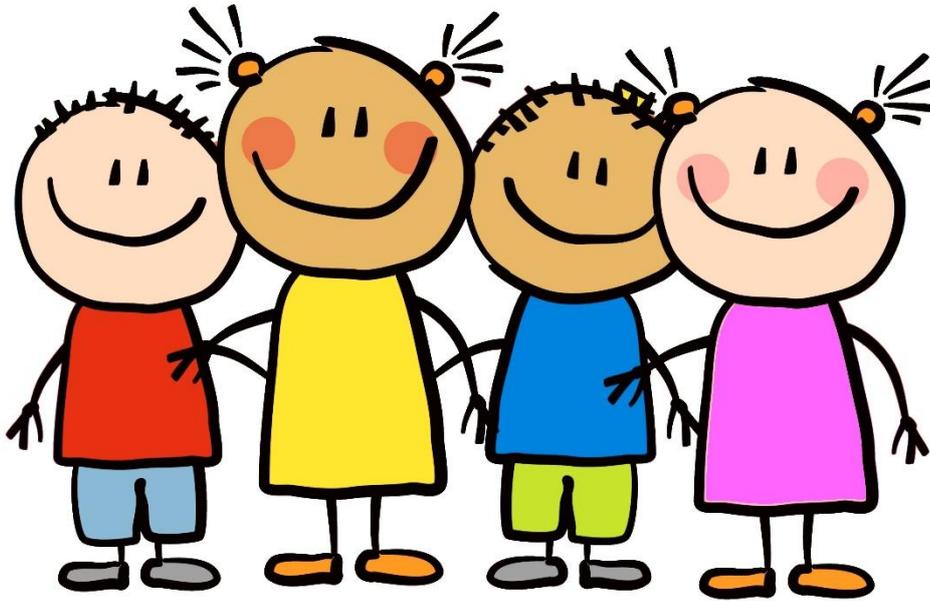


# ***What do you think?***



## **Tell me about Collective Worship**

**Maybe you are a senior leader, an inspector, a Foundation governor or a member of the clergy but whoever you are, you care about Collective Worship in schools. This booklet provides a range of questions to ask the people who should be able to tell you most about CW in your setting.**

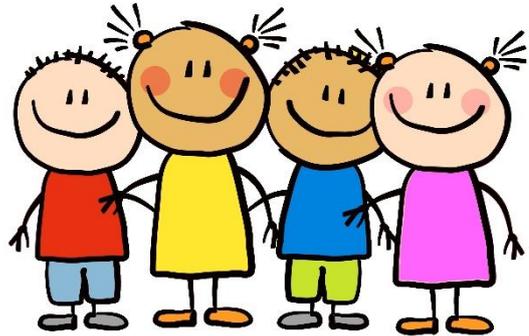
**We believe that by asking the right questions, you will gain a better picture of the impact of CW in your particular setting, and that this will provide a springboard for continuing improvement.**



## Welcome!

In this booklet you will find questions to ask:

- Pupils
- The CW Leader
- Teachers
- Heads / SMT
- Foundation Governors
- Clergy
- Parents



Please feel free to select which questions to use and to add, adapt or re-word questions as appropriate.

The questions can be adapted for use in all schools but are targeted at Church of England primary schools.

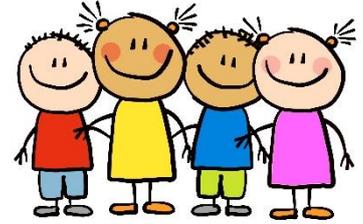
In Church of England schools, collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It must meet all statutory requirements for Collective Worship, while holding to the Trust Deeds of the school, which normally require acts of worship in accordance with the practice and principles of the Church of England.

Church schools have the impact of their CW inspected in Strand 6 of a SIAMS inspection. Strand 6 is included at the back of the booklet for schools to look at and has influenced some of the questions in each section. The whole Evaluation Schedule can be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-school-inspections/new-siams>

## *What the pupils think....*

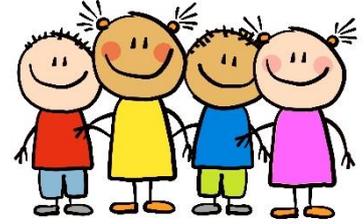
# Tell me about CW:



1. Where do you hold CW in your school? How would we know it was a place to worship?
2. Is CW important in a school? What can you tell me about some things you think make it important and some things you have enjoyed in an act of CW?
3. What important Christian things have you learnt about e.g. Bible, Jesus' teachings, Trinity, Eucharist?
4. What values do you reflect on in CW? How does this affect your behaviour at school or at home?
5. Do you talk about things happening in the world in CW? Do you pray about these things together?
6. Do you ever feel inspired to do something in response to worship e.g. make an apology, support a charity, speak up for a cause? Give examples.
7. Have you had opportunities to pray and worship God? Or be quiet and reflect? Do these help you?
8. Do your teachers make sure there is variety in CW e.g. different kinds of songs / ways of praying?
9. How have you helped in planning, leading or evaluating CW? Does helping make CW better?
10. Do you feel CW is only for religious people in your school or is it open and welcoming to everyone whatever their beliefs and background? Why?

## *What the teachers think....*

# Tell me about CW:



1. Can you tell me about an act of CW you really enjoyed? Why did you enjoy it?
2. Do pupils show enthusiasm for CW? What would make CW even better for you and for them?
3. How often are your school's Christian values explored in CW? How do these connect to your school's vision for education / everyday school life?
4. Does CW offer you, as well as the pupils, the chance to engage with worship, to be still or reflective, regardless of your background?
5. Does CW address issues in today's world and show that faith might have something relevant to say?
6. How aware do you feel of the diversity of worship in the Church of England? Does CW give any sense of Christianity being a global faith? How?
7. Have there been occasions where you felt you needed help in leading CW? What support and professional development have you received?
8. Does the school use a liturgical structure to plan CW e.g. Gather, Engage, Respond, Send?
9. How is CW evaluated? Does it lead to improvement? What feedback is given to CW leaders?
10. Do you feel the worship in your school fulfils the brief to be 'inclusive, invitational and inspiring'?

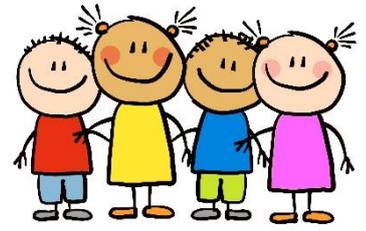
## *What the governors think....*

# Tell me about CW:



1. Is Collective Worship ever discussed by governors?  
Are you clear about the purpose of CW and are the statutory requirements for a church school met?
2. Have you had training on CW in schools? What do you know about the CW programme at this school?
3. Have you been able to attend CW? Did you feel it was 'inclusive, invitational and inspiring'?
4. What have you learnt about the content and quality of CW from attendance at CW / staff / pupils / documents / school website?
5. How is CW used to reflect on the school's vision and values? Are the links to Christian faith and teaching strong / growing?
6. Are clear opportunities offered to pray and reflect both in CW and in other spaces around the school?
7. Who leads CW: head, clergy, teachers, HLTAs? How well are they supported and resourced?
8. Are the pupils and staff engaged with CW? Are any children or staff withdrawn / missing from CW?
9. How have you worked with the head to ensure an effective strategy to monitor the impact of CW?
10. What would make your role even more effective in supporting CW?

## *What the CW leader thinks ....*

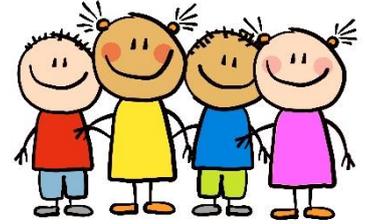


# Tell me about CW:

1. How is CW planned and by whom? What pattern do you follow across the year / week?
2. How does CW embody the school's Christian vision and values? Is it the 'heartbeat' of the school?
3. What have you put in place to ensure CW has a distinctive Anglican / Church of England flavour e.g. greetings, symbols, specific prayers?
4. Would you say your CW meets the requirement to be 'inclusive, invitational and inspiring'? How?
5. Do you feel CW offers opportunity for spiritual growth for all adults / children, without compulsion?
6. What opportunities are provided for children/ adults to record their responses to worship? ... to engage in further prayer and reflection e.g. prayer spaces?
7. Are pupils / adults helped to link Christian faith and Jesus' teaching to everyday life? Current events?
8. Does CW offer a taste of how different Christians pray and worship across the Anglican communion?
9. How are pupils / adults involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship? Is practice improving?
10. Is CW a priority? What level of support is provided for CW i.e. for regular staff training, resources, visitors, help from the local church?

## *What the parents think ....*

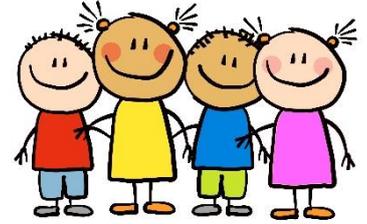
# Tell me about CW:



1. What do you know about CW (assembly) in this school? Do you think it plays an important part?
2. Is CW treated as important or a priority in this school?
3. Does the school website tell you more about CW in this school?
4. Do your children enjoy CW or talk about it?
5. Can you tell me how a theme in CW has encouraged your child to think or do something differently?
6. Has CW helped your children know more about how and why Christians, and others value times of prayer, stillness or reflection?
7. Are children of different backgrounds able to take part in CW in appropriate ways? Are their beliefs respected and do they show respect for others?
8. Have you had cause to discuss CW with staff or governors? What prompted this e.g. withdrawal from CW, congratulation, concern?
9. Have you attended CW at school or in church? Do you feel it was appropriate for the children?
10. Are festivals of the Christian year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost) celebrated well in worship, and in such a way that all can learn and join in?

## *What the head / SLT thinks ....*

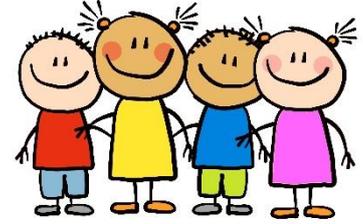
# Tell me about CW:



1. Do you meet the statutory requirements for CW? Is your CW Christian? Is it in accordance with the 'principles and practices of the Church of England'?
2. What evidence can you give that your CW is 'inclusive, invitational and inspiring'?
3. How are parents /staff informed about CW in your school, including the right to withdrawal?
4. How have you ensured all children and adults have access to CW as the 'heart' of a church school?
5. What priority is given to CW? How is it linked to, and supportive of, your school's Christian vision?
6. How is CW planned over time? What input do staff, pupils, the local church community have?
7. How do you ensure staff, including yourself, are well-supported in their understanding and delivery of Christian CW, including staff new to the school?
8. What feedback do you give your CW leader / foundation governor? What feedback do they give you from their monitoring?
9. How does CW feature in the school improvement plan – what is being addressed currently?
10. What do you believe is the impact of CW in your school? How do you think it has moved forward since your last inspection?

## *What local clergy think ....*

# Tell me about CW:



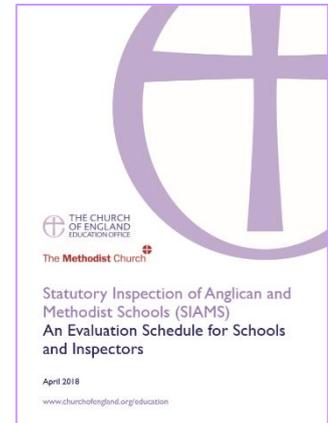
1. What do you know about CW in your local school / this school?
2. How often have you led CW here? ... on what themes? What advice / feedback did the school give?
3. Have you had recent access to training on CW in schools e.g. from the diocese?
4. What conversation have you had about CW with the CW leader? Foundation governors? To what end?
5. Are pupils encouraged to use liturgical greetings or prayers / actions they would also see in church?
6. Do your church members ever visit CW? What for?
7. Is the school encouraged to use the parish church for CW from time to time if appropriate? ... or for worship at a Christian festival? ... or for a Eucharist?
8. Has the school engaged with Sunday worship in the parish or in the wider Diocese e.g. through schools' services at the cathedral?
9. Have you been able to help staff / pupils understand the wide variety of worship in the Church of England, including the Anglican Communion worldwide?
10. Have you worked with / encouraged other local Christians to support the school's Christian worship, as part of Anglican commitment to ecumenism?

## Strand 6: The impact of collective worship

**In a church school collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.**

In this strand the following must be explored:

- **The ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.**



*In developing collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspiring the school community needs to evaluate the extent to which worship:*

a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.

d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

