

Let's talk about...

Collective Worship



This booklet provides a range of questions to ask the people who should be able to tell you most about CW in your school.

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

Introduction

In this booklet, there are suggestions for questions to ask different members of the school community.



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 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.

In church schools, when SIAMS visit, one inspection question they will seek to answer is: How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

More information can be found on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship> and <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

PUPILS



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?
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?
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?
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 or other pupils helped in planning, leading or evaluating CW? Does this make CW better?
10. Do you feel CW is only for Christians or is it open and welcoming to everyone whatever their beliefs and background? Why?

STAFF



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?
4. Does CW offer you the chance to engage with worship, to be still or reflective, regardless of your background?
5. Does CW address issues in today's world?
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?

The following questions are aimed towards staff members who have led a time of CW...

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 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 is 'inclusive, invitational and inspiring'?

GOVERNORS



1. Is CW 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 CW 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 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 pupils 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?

L **CW LEADER**



1. How is CW planned and by whom?
What pattern do you follow across the year / term / 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 Church of England flavour e.g. liturgy.
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 / pupils?
6. What opportunities are provided for pupils/ adults to record their responses to worship and to engage in further prayer and reflection e.g. prayer spaces?
7. Are links made between Jesus' teaching to everyday life and current events?
8. Does CW offer a taste of how different Christians pray and worship?
9. How are pupils / adults involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship?
10. Is CW a priority? What level of support is provided for CW?

PARENTS



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

HEADTEACHER AND LEADERS



1. Do you meet the statutory requirements for CW? 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 pupils 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 and the local church community have?
7. How do you ensure staff, including yourself, are well-supported in their understanding and delivery of 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 SIAMS inspection?
11. Are pupils encouraged to join in with worship on a Sunday at the local church or in the wider Diocese? e.g. through schools' services at the cathedral

VISITORS, INCLUDING CLERGY



1. What do you know about CW in this school?
2. How often have you led CW here? What advice / feedback did the school give?
3. Have you had recent access to training on CW in schools?
4. What conversation have you had about CW with the CW leader and/or foundation governors?
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?
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?
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?