

Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Collective worship provides opportunities to celebrate and reflect together upon the beliefs, values and practices of members of the school community and on the school community's shared values.

Aims

Collective worship in church schools should aim to:

1. Provide the opportunity for pupils to share in Christian worship of God.
2. Consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
3. Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
4. Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.
5. Provide opportunities for a variety of Christian worship to help them identify their own preferred ways of worshipping.

In accordance with our Trust Deed and with statutory requirements, collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised on a Key Stage or whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and the pupils themselves.

Children are encouraged to take an active part in worship by acting, singing, praying, listening, thinking and reflecting but no pressure is put on them to become worshipping Christians. However, Christian values are definitely built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

We recognise that collective worship at Cringleford School should be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff whatever their beliefs. It is a special time for pupils to reflect on the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community.

The Headteacher co-ordinates the programme for collective worships both in terms of practical arrangements and worship themes. The Deputy Head and other members of staff also lead assemblies which may contain acts of worship. Visitors from local churches or charities also participate in our assemblies, with the local clergy playing an important regular role.

On selected Wednesdays assemblies are led by a class and their parents are invited to attend.

The children are encouraged to attend and participate in services at the local church if they are not regular worshippers elsewhere.

The celebration of Christian festivals e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, plays an important part in our worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

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| Monday | 10.05 | Whole school assembly led by headteacher, deputy or teacher |
| Tuesday | 9.10 | Key Stage 1 assembly led by headteacher, deputy or teacher Key Stage 2 assemblies led by class teachers |
| Wednesday | 10.05 | Whole school assembly – usually led by a class or a visitor (e.g. local clergy / Open the Book team) |
| Thursday | 9.10 | Key Stage 2 assembly led by headteacher, deputy or teacher Key Stage 1 assemblies led by class teachers |
| Friday | 9.10 | Whole school Celebration assembly |

Any of the above may be taken by appropriate visitors; clergy etc.

Equal Opportunities & Special Educational Needs

School worship should aim to develop positive attitudes and values. It includes affirming the equality of individuals in God's sight whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes, interests and spiritualities.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- a) Are the children settled, attentive and interested?
- b) Do they discuss issues in the classroom or at home?
- c) Do they behave and treat each other in a way which is compatible with the themes?
- d) Do they enjoy coming to assembly?

Foundation Governors attend and evaluate collective worship when they visit the school.

It is not anticipated that parents sending their children to a C of E Voluntary Aided School would wish to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship. At present all children from a variety of faith backgrounds, participate. However, any individual concerns should be discussed with the Headteacher.

Resources:

We use a variety of resources, including 'Values for Life', as a basis for Collective worship. This enables the school to focus on a different Christian value each half term.

Date of last review: June 2012

Date of next review: June 2015