

Cuckney C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Dream, Believe, Achieve

'Nothing will be impossible with God' Luke 1:37

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name of Publication | Collective Worship Policy |
| Date of Issue | December 2024 |
| Author | Benjamin Haynes - Greenwood |
| Responsibility for review | Governing body |
| Copies of documents are kept | In the Head Teacher's policy folder |
| Date Reviewed: | |

Signed:

L.C. Crossland

L C Crossland
Head teacher

A grey rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M Lovell'.

Margaret Lovell
Chair of Governors

Introduction

Collective worship at Cuckney C of E Primary is viewed as an important part of school life. We use this to promote the values that we feel are integral to our school community, our general ethos and to promote our mission statement:

'Dream, Believe, Achieve.'

'For nothing will be impossible with God' Luke 1:37

It is a time to come together and share the important moments in our lives in the name of the Christian faith. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Core Values

Here at Cuckney we feel strongly that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- Practising Christians
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Non-practising Christians
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those of no faith

The content of our Collective Worship sessions can be accessed by all of the above and we feel valuable life lessons and understanding can be achieved regardless of personal religious backgrounds.

Whilst worship at Cuckney C of E Primary School is a legal requirement, we feel it is central to the school's Church of England tradition. As a Church of England school our curriculum is set within a Christian context, including 'British Values', but also gaining a deeper understanding of other religious faiths in order to both enhance knowledge and to promote respect, tolerance and understanding.

It is expected that all children take part in R.E. and collective worship but, although never exercised, parents/carers do have the right to request exemption for their children from collective worship. Should exemption be requested the school would work with parents/carers to see what arrangements could be made for the supervision of the children.

Aims

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To learn about the fundamentals of the Christian faith
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To encourage and promote a respect for people of other cultures and increase children's awareness of the beliefs, worship and festivals of other cultures too.

Organisation

Collective worship is delivered through a daily act of worship. This is timetabled to last for between 25 and 40 minutes; this may vary for special occasions such as Harvest, Advent, Easter or when a special visitor is on site.

Mondays - Whole school worship is led by the head teacher or Religious Education co-ordinator at 14:45, each week has an agreed theme, based on a Christian value, and an assembly plan is followed, written by the R.E. co-ordinator and overseen by the head teacher. This worship introduces that theme and explores its meaning.

Tuesdays – A whole school act of worship is led by the head teacher or Religious Education co-ordinator at 14:45. This includes a bible story and Christian teaching from the Twelve Baskets resource books. Children participate in visual stories and role play, whilst also taking the opportunity to lead parts of this worship.

Wednesdays - Key Stage and/or class assemblies address PSHE themes from the 'Jigsaw' programme and British Values. Each class provides one worship focused on one of the British Values stated in the Agreed Nottinghamshire Syllabus (2021-26) and detailed in the school's British Values mission statement.

Thursdays - Prayers and Reflection time is delivered in individual classrooms by class teachers. This is an opportunity for discussion around the weekly theme/Christian value and for prayer.

Fridays - Celebration Worship takes place between 10:20 and 10:45. This is a chance for class teachers and teaching assistants to recognise those in their class that have either achieved well, behaved exceptionally or done something that has stood out during that week. These may include swimming certificates or achievements in clubs. We feel it is important for all aspects of the community to be recognised and celebrated where appropriate. 'Leaves' are awarded for specific acts of kindness, or extra-curricular achievements, to be placed on our Tree of Success in the reception entrance hall. During this worship we also celebrate any birthdays and summarise our weekly theme with examples of how that theme has been followed throughout the week.

Where available, the reverend/curator of St. Mary's Norton Church will participate in delivering worships, as well as other members of the church. This happens fortnightly on a Tuesday.

All staff are requested to attend Celebration Assembly on a Friday and different members of staff attend Monday and Thursday worship also, dependent on individual circumstances. All children and staff participate in celebrating religious festivals, attending the church for a carol service at Christmas and participating in the Harvest festival and Easter celebrations also.

Planning, Content and Detail

The school's collective worship plan has been devised on a two-year cycle to give variety and avoid repetition. The plan was written by the R.E. co-ordinator and is to be revised every four years, allowing for two years of the current cycle before being reassessed and amended where necessary. Class assemblies are based around the British Values stated in the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus; these include: Mutual Tolerance, Respect, Individual Liberty, Democracy and Rule of Law. This rota has been organised so that no year group covers the same value during a five-year period. The mixing of year groups in classes which is inevitable at a school our size has also been taken into consideration.

Each collective worship will be opened and closed with our acknowledgement of God's participation in our worship. Worship will also be concluded by reciting both the school's prayer and the Lord's prayer, which is child led. Specific themed prayers are also delivered from the Twelve Baskets resources on a Thursday. A prayer is said by children before commencing lunch.

Collective worship is monitored in school and evaluated by the R.E. co-ordinator. This is firstly to maintain high standards in collective worship and secondly to ensure the school is fully prepared for inspections by the relevant bodies. This monitoring is in synchronization with the observations of teaching and learning in Religious Education lessons, to ensure the highest quality of fair, balanced and relevant R.E. content is being distributed across all key stages at Cuckney C of E Primary School.