

Cragside Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Revised: January 2023

Date of next Review: January 2024

The policy is devised to meet the needs of the learners at Cragside Church of England Primary School, conscious of the Christian foundation of our school and the need for Collective Worship to be relevant and engaging for all at Cragside.

**(This document is available in an alternative format
and in an alternative language on request)**

School's theologically-rooted Christian Vision

Our Christian vision is to follow Jesus' teaching, helping us to strive for excellence in all that we do and flourish as unique individuals so that all can 'Shine Bright'. This is underpinned by Jesus teaching in Matthew's Gospel that everyone should 'Let your light shine...'

Introduction

At Cragside Church of England Primary School, we seek to live out the Christian and British values which are at the heart of our school and expressed in our mission statement, our school value statement and the set of SHINE BRIGHT code of conduct we have at school. Our constant and relentless drive is that there should be **high achievement for all** at Cragside.

This policy describes our values and philosophy in relation to meeting the needs of all learners at Cragside. It is designed to describe how the school intends to meet the needs of learners of all ages, groups and abilities.

Rationale

At Cragside Church of England Primary School we recognise that children growing up in a rapidly changing society need to have a firm foundation of values and beliefs to enable them to explore their own spiritual development. These values and beliefs are an inherent part of the whole school ethos and are underpinned through Collective Worship. Cragside is a voluntary controlled, Church of England Primary school.

We always seek to reflect in our worship, the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work there. We encourage all members of the school community to contemplate life's big questions by providing experiences of worship and opportunities to reflect and respond.

Aims and objectives

Our central aims of Collective Worship are:

- To develop spiritually as a whole school community and as individuals
- To Provide opportunities to experience, reflect on and respond to our world
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To explore big questions about spirituality and faith
- To explore the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and think about how they are relevant in our life as a school and in our lives as individuals
- To celebrate our Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils
- To ensure the our values and vision are central to the life of the school and have a real and meaningful impact on all our lives

- To help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To create a sense of belonging.
- To provide children with opportunities to put their faith into action

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place every day Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday. Each half term there is a specific focus. This could be linked to a religious festival such as Christmas or an aspect of Christian teaching such as prayer and will always be linked to our school values. At the start of each half term the children are asked to consider a 'big question' linked to our theme. The theme for each week is then broken down into smaller 'big questions' which support the children in finding the answer to the big questions.

The weekly theme is introduced on a Monday with Collective Worship being led by a member of the senior leadership team. Teaching staff plan and deliver Collective Worship on a Tuesday, unpicking the weekly theme further on a rota basis. Teachers lead Singing and praising worship on Wednesday. Our Thursday Worship is either class based or led by one of our year groups where families are invited to join us. Each class plans their own worship and ensures links to the Gospel. Shining Stars worship takes place on a Friday, where the Head Teacher leads us through a celebration of ways the children shine bright in our school. Every worship includes a time of singing, a time of reflection and a time of prayer. Reception join worship on an increasing basis as the year progresses. When not in whole school worship, Reception have class based worship. Members of the local church also come into school to regularly deliver worship sessions to the children and staff.

In addition, Collective Worship currently takes place at the local churches to mark key Christian Festivals such as, Harvest, Easter and Christmas. The Collective Worship Lead is responsible for the yearly overview and themes, creating the rota and sharing it with staff and the day to day organisation of collective worship, resource provision, and meeting any identified training needs.

Our weekly themes reflect the Anglican nature of our school and introduce the children to aspects of Anglican practice and faith. We ensure festivals from all Faiths are included at appropriate times and national/international issues to be used as a basis for consideration in order to develop our understanding of cultural diversity.

We recognise the difference between collective worship and 'assembly' in that collective worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect and to consider ways to live out our school values in their daily lives. It also contributes significantly to the life and wellbeing of the school. Teachers are encouraged to link their collective worship sessions to the whole school themes or current topical issues (i.e. praying for other countries, world leaders, their area or their town)

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to ensure that Collective Worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the school's Equalities Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the Head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

The Worship Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the quality of Collective Worship in school. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship, and for providing a strategic lead and direction. The Collective Worship attends the daily acts of worship and leads the Young Church Leaders (a group of children from across the school) committee who play an active role in planning worship for the school. The Collective Worship Lead and Young Church Leaders evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Collective Worship and report this to the Head teacher.

The children are encouraged to fill in a weekly review of collective worship across the school so their views can be incorporated in future planning.

The school has a named Governor responsible for monitoring our foundation as a Church of England school, Collective Worship. The subject leader will meet with the named Governor as part of the self-review cycle in our school.

Legal Framework and the Right of withdrawal

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988)

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.