

Cragside Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Revised: March 2024

Date of next Review: March 2025

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...'

The Cragside family is special and we aim for all our members to be independent, enthusiastic learners and responsible citizens, living up to their true potential, being all that they can be by looking in, at themselves, looking out, towards others and looking up towards God and/or as part of their own spiritual journey. Throughout their time in school everyone is encouraged to have confidence in their own abilities so that they have the opportunity to achieve their potential and feel empowered to use their voice to enable themselves and others to flourish and shine. We promote mutual respect, tolerance, and understanding and encourage respect, responsibility and individuality. Positive and caring relationships are the thread which weaves through all of our school community-relationships where all are valued and all value each other. All children, staff and families in school are celebrated as unique individuals who are valued, loved, celebrated and supported. We strive to enable all to SHINE BRIGHT and flourish at Cragside.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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

Collective Worship is central to life at Cragside and is underpinned by our vision to 'Let your light shine...' We encourage all members of our school community to do this by looking in at themselves, looking out towards the others and looking up towards God and/or something beyond the physical. We end each act of worship by saying we will 'Look In, Look Out and Look Up as we Shine Bright today.' While reflecting on how each worship session will help us to achieve this by putting our beliefs into action to create change for ourselves and others. At Cragside, we recognise the key part worship can play in providing members of our school community with a firm foundation of values, beliefs and social conscience. This is an inherent part of the whole school ethos and is underpinned through daily acts of worship where we seek to explore life's big questions about spirituality and faith. Our collective worship times are fully inclusive and all children are encouraged to think and reflect on the theme being conveyed in a way that is meaningful for them.

Aims and objectives

Our central aims of Collective Worship are:

- To be inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- To develop spiritually as a whole school community and as individuals
- To provide opportunities to experience, reflect on and respond to our world and our place in it by looking in, looking out and looking up
- To be consistent with the faith and practice of the Anglican Church by following the liturgical year and being distinctly Christian
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- 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
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To celebrate the worth every member of this school community including the sharing our gifts and talents with others
- To ensure that our vision and ethos 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 of the nature and language of Anglican Christian worship
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To create in all 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. As well as following the Liturgical Year, 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 vision, encouraging all members of our school community 'Let your light shine...' by looking in at themselves, out at the world and others and up towards God and or something bigger than themselves. 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 questions or ideas which support the children in finding the answer to the big questions.

Our worship is organised as follows

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Led by a member of the SLT (This can also be led by children where appropriate) This will focus on the theme for the half term	Led by class teachers in year group teams. (This can also be led by children where appropriate) This will focus on the theme for the half term	Singing worship- Led by class teachers in year group teams.	Class worship – There are opportunities for this to be in the prayer and reflection area on a rota basis	Shining stars Worship Children receive recognition for shining bright and have an opportunity for reflection

Every worship session begins in the same way by focusing on the worship table with the following words and actions:

We take out the Bible – and think about God the Father

We take out the cross – and think about God the son, Jesus

We light the candle – and think about God, the Holy Spirit

Leader: Peace be with you

Response: And with you

Worship includes a time of singing, a time of reflection and a time of prayer.

Every worship session ends with the words:

Let us look in, look out and look up as we shine bright today

In addition, Collective Worship currently takes place at the local churches to mark key Christian Festivals such as, Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Members of the local church also come into school to deliver worship sessions to the children and staff.

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 referenced 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.