

Collective Worship Policy

At Cronton C.E. Primary School, our collective worship is Christian based. There are occasions when other faiths are included during collective worship, for example, festivals, holy days, etc.

Through collective worship we hope to promote spiritual, cultural and moral development and a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole.

We aim to provide opportunity for the children to experience worship and through this to develop a sense of:

- awe, wonder and mystery
- self worth and value of others
- pattern, sequence and order
- interdependence with the natural world

Collective worship also serves to help develop an awareness:

- that life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships
- that there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

Our assemblies/collective worship are based on the principles that they should be spiritual, educational and inclusive and are seen as special times when children can feel safe, secure and relaxed and share with others to foster feelings of community.

The school tries hard to differentiate between assembly which it defines as a meeting of the school, often to relay specific information, and worship, which involves a spiritual aspects, together with prayers and hymns.

Weekly timetable

Whole school worship take place each morning The worship begins at 11:15 a.m. and lasts between 15 and 20 minutes. On Fridays the assembly begins at 9:30 a.m.

On Wednesday afternoon, a "Songs of Praise" session takes place, and this time is taken to remind children of the hymns we have learnt which are suitable for the following week's collective worship, or to learn new hymns. As far as possible, the hymns reflect the theme of the worship. A record of hymns and songs appropriate to the worship are drawn up at the start of each half term in the worship planning meeting as a reference for all staff.

On Friday morning a celebratory assembly takes place when we celebrate the work of the children and their efforts both in and out of school. Birthdays are also celebrated. Prayers are said at its completion.

During worship, music is played to create an appropriate atmosphere as the children enter and leave the hall. The children are expected to enter the hall quietly and to remain silent while listening to appropriate music. A candle is always lit and placed on the worship table as a focal point for the worship. Hymns may be sung and prayers said. This usually, but not always, includes the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer and other appropriate prayer throughout the year. Our school prayer tree is a tool by which children can write and share their own prayers.

The children sit in the age groups, all but Y6, on the floor; the oldest children sit on benches. The children usually stand for the singing of the hymns, but sit for prayers.

All the staff attend the Monday morning worship and Friday Celebration and then on a rota basis for the other assemblies; one member of staff is in the hall as well as the leader of the worship if required.

Planning the assemblies

The school has a two year programme of worship themes. These are linked to our Christian value and SEAL theme for the half term. A half – termly rota is displayed in the staff room together with a list of who is taking which act of worship. The themes are a guide, but if saints days, special days or some more important event occurs, the theme will be put aside for that day. There is a planning group that meets each term to plan the worship ahead.

In school there is much to say 'thank-you' for, much praise, much to hope and request and these are all given place as part of the worship.

Collective worship provide opportunities for children to reflect and offer a chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music, hymns, drama, silent thought, reflection and prayer.

Staff use an agreed planning and evaluation pro-forma to plan and evaluate each individual act of worship. This is shown in the appendix.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection, including hymn

practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer that was developed and written by the children and other prayers written by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by Staff or Clergy, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above the worship table and other relevant artefacts linked to the worship are also placed on the worship table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class.

Prayers are also said at the end of the school day in each class.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Evaluating our worship.

We regularly evaluate the impact of collective worship through a variety of strategies.

Pupil response is recorded by a child immediately after an act of worship.

Staff record an evaluation of their worship on a planning proforma. This is monitored by the Collective worship co-ordinator

Parents are asked to comment on collective worship that they have been involved with through an evaluation book in the entrance to school.

On a termly basis pupils responses to collective worship are recorded through the termly questionnaire.

All responses are monitored and evaluated by the collective worship co-ordinator. Any necessary actions are discussed by the SLT prior to implementation.

Leaders of Collective Worship

Generally, each day's collective worship is led by a different person.

Monday: Revd Ray Jones

Tuesday: Headteacher Christian values based through bible and other stories

Wednesday: Separate Key stage assemblies SLT staff (SEALS theme through christian stories)

Class Assemblies

Thursday: Deputy Head Assemblies. Bible based linked to Christian Value

Friday Celebration Assembly – Head, deputy or SLT member

If a member of staff is unavailable, the head or the deputy will step in. Should a member of staff be on a course who would normally be taking the worship, they should arrange to swap days.

Class Worship

Each class takes it in turn to lead worship, starting with Y6. These take place on a Wednesday morning, starting at 9:05 a.m. Parents are invited to attend this and to remain afterwards for a cup of coffee or tea.

Class Worship should include prayers and a suitable song or hymn. Theme and format is up to the class and the teacher.

Links with the Church

Our main link is with Revd Ray Jones who regularly takes the Monday morning collective worship.

The school also takes part in two services per year – at Harvest and at Christmas. The Harvest service is led by Y3&4 with support from the junior children; the Nativity service has an input from the infant department. Content of both services are agreed between Revd Ray Jones and the school.

There is also an annual service at St Luke's church, organised by the headteacher. This takes place at the end of January. The children are transported to the service by buses, paid for by the school.

The school also participates in the village Carol Service, with readers and choir. We join with HolyFamilySchool for this.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Such children are looked after either by the TAs or the class teacher.

Staff also have the right not to attend the collective worship.

The role of link governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Appendix

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your Kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our sins and we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

School Prayer

Dear Lord,

Bless our school,

Help us to play together, learn together, work together

And share our love with one another

We ask in your name

Amen

Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Resources

Worship books and prayer books are available in either the meeting room or main entrance cupboards. All books should be returned to their place of origin!