



Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship rationale


The Best for Every Child - a Unique Child of God

See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children — and so, in fact, we are (1 John 3:1)

Intent

As a Church of England School; our vision and values are at the heart of everything we do and play a vital part in our pupils' education, spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. Our school's vision, 'The Best for Every Child – a Unique Child of God', is built upon and led by our Christian Values, mutual respect and valuing differences. We provide children with the experiences they need to develop into successful learners, confident individuals and compassionate citizens of God's family. In line with our overall curriculum intent, the development of our children is at the core of what we want to achieve at Cookridge Holy Trinity, not just whilst they are with us but for the rest of their lives.

At Cookridge Holy Trinity Primary School, our aim is for collective worship to reflect the traditions of the Church of England, enabling children to develop an understanding of Anglican worship and practice and embed this in their daily lives. Collective worship sessions celebrate our school's Christian values: Respect, Service, Perseverance, Hope, Compassion, Truthfulness, Thankfulness, Friendship, Trust, Forgiveness, Peace and Courage. These values thread through all aspects of school life and are used to root our school's Golden Rules. Through considered collective worship sessions, we strive to nurture children's spiritual education. We encourage them to make time to reflect and wonder, celebrate and respond to God; to consider their opinions, actions and feelings and those of others. We ask them to think about themselves as individuals and how they can impact on their community and on the wider world; recognising the positive contributions we can all make. Through strengthening their understanding of our Christian values, we will empower children to make positive choices and develop themselves as unique, significant, and precious individuals.

	Golden Rules	Christian Values	Bible verse/Jesus' teachings
We are gentle	Compassion Peace	"Be compassionate and kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."	
We are kind and helpful	Service Friendship	"We should not say or do anything unless we can answer 'Yes' to the question 'Would I want that said or done to me?'"	
We listen.	Respect Hope	"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."	
We are honest	Truthfulness Trust	"the Way, the Truth and the Life".	
We work hard	Perseverance Courage	"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."	
We look after properly	Thankfulness Forgiveness	"And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us."	

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather, to remind them of and to reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It also allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those with no religious commitment to sense what worship is and to reflect deeply. In this way we aim both to affirm and to protect the integrity of all members of the school community.

In particular, Collective Worship at Cookridge Holy Trinity Primary School:

- Provides an opportunity for all members of the school community to stop activity, to pause and to reflect on important issues;
- Fosters a sense of fellowship and belonging
- Fosters a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
- Builds up the sense of group identity, fostering concern for the needs of each other;
- Gives pupils the experience of being still or silent;
- Provides an opportunity for celebrating times of success or joy;
- Provides an opportunity for meeting at times of sadness or sorrow;
- Provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon core school values – such as striving to be honest and truthful, trying hard in all things, respecting oneself as well as other people, striving to be fair and just; and
- Offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and school events.

Collective Worship in our school contributes to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural (SMSC) and intellectual development of pupils in the following ways:

To the **spiritual development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things;
- Experience times of quiet inactivity to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day; and hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye.

Collective worship contributes to the **moral development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
- Hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified; and
- Learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Collective worship contributes to the **social development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Gather with others for a common purpose;
- Share times of joy and times of sadness with others; and
- Learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting.

Collective worship contributes to the **cultural development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Hear music from a range of times, places and cultures;
- Reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear; and appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.

Collective worship contributes to the **intellectual development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Learn and to engage with their minds;
- Have ideas and beliefs confirmed or challenged
- Reflect upon the nature of learning and education.

Implementation

Our daily act of Collective Worship is led by teachers, pupils and members of the local church. Children are able to participate in Collective Worship and help plan and deliver Collective Worship and church services as part of their class or the Worship Team.

Collective Worship sessions are planned to be invitational, reflective and engaging. Provision is considered to ensure all pupils to benefit without compromising their own beliefs.

Collective worship sessions follow a framework of Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding. Prayers and singing are key elements of worship sessions and link to the worship theme. Sessions include quotations and questions to encourage deeper thinking, photographs and posters, stories, poems and art, to prompt response and enquiry, prayers and guided reflections.

A variety of types of Collective Worship are reflected in the relatedness between school and the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Cookridge. Participation in the end of year services, Easter and Christmas services provide opportunities for the children's experience to be focused outside the more familiar setting of the school premises and enriched by that process.

Each half term Collective Worship sessions are linked by a specific Christian value. In consultation with our children, parents, Governors and staff we believe that the gifts of Respect, Service, Perseverance, Hope, Compassion, Truthfulness, Thankfulness, Friendship, Trust, Forgiveness, Peace and Courage; are the values we want our children to leave our school with. Whilst these gifts are inclusive of human values, we try to anchor them into the Christian faith by relating them to the Bible through stories and readings. To support and extend our thinking about each value, we use resources from Jumping Fish 'Teaching Values for life' and the online tool, Worship Workshop. This enables our worship programme to explore British values, environmental and topical issues and to celebrate significant figures and their contributions to human thought and development which illustrate the theme.

We teach our Christian Values in a two year rolling cycle.

Our Christian Values this year (Year A):

- Term 1: Respect
- Term 2: Service
- Term 3: Perseverance
- Term 4: Hope
- Term 5: Compassion
- Term 6: Truthfulness

Our Christian Values this year (Year B):

- Term 1: Thankfulness
- Term 2: Friendship
- Term 3: Trust
- Term 4: Forgiveness
- Term 5: Peace
- Term 6: Courage

In line with the Church of England Church Schools Guidance, we aim to provide worship sessions which give pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Each year, Year 4 are invited to undertake a communion preparation course led by the parish priest. The children receive their first communion at a Eucharist held in school, with attendance from the Bishop of Wakefield and parish priest. The school liaises very well with parents about this and is highly sensitive to those who do not wish to participate.

We have developed several spaces around school to encourage spirituality and the opportunity for reflection. These areas are where the children can go to pray, reflect or have a moment of stillness and quiet. At times, they will be invited to go to the reflective prayer space in the Worship Area area in response to a Collective Worship big question. Through our Outdoor Reflective Area, Classroom Prayer activities and Spiritual section of our library, all children have the opportunity to engage in themed activities relating to our values or Collective Worship themes or to spend time in personal reflection as and when needed.

Impact

At Cookridge Holy Trinity Primary School, in all areas of school life, we set high expectations about pupil's behaviour and we encourage children to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects our school values at all times. How children interact with each other and live out these values throughout the school day, coupled with their responses and level of engagement, provides a good insight into the impact of Collective Worship sessions at our school.

In order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of Collective Worship, pupil's feelings about sessions are gauged through use of pupil voice and evaluation feedback. This ensures worship can reflect children's thoughts and ideas. Children are included in planning sessions to ensure Collective Worship remains interesting and relevant to them. Feedback from staff and visitors also feeds into the planning cycle to encompass their thoughts and contributions.

Each class from Y1-6 elects their own Worship Team representative who helps and supports us follow our school's Christian Values. The Worship Team meet on a regular basis. They listen carefully to the views of their peers, so that pupil voice is heard. The Worship Team work closely with the RE coordinator to help to plan and lead their own worships linked to special charities and occasions throughout the year and they are also actively involved in monitoring and evaluating our worship in school, so that we can make Collective Worship in our school the very best it can be!