



## Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School

### Collective Worship

#### *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)*

At Cookridge Holy Trinity Church of England (A) Primary School we serve the community by providing a happy, secure and caring Christian environment where all are valued and respected. We pride ourselves on being friendly and welcoming. We believe in the uniqueness of the individual as a child of God and recognise the range of contributions that each can make.

We provide for the spiritual, emotional, physical, mental and social development of the whole child, as a child of God. We seek to foster self-esteem and instil a sense of responsibility to others and the world around them through the teaching of our Christian Values.

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence, and the school curriculum aims to offer all children a broad and balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum which provides consistency and continuity of teaching throughout the school, enabling every child to maximise their potential.

We work in partnership with parents, the local church, the wider community and other schools to provide an education of the highest quality.

**Policy written by: Victoria Lillington**

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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.

## Collective Worship Aims

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.

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.

## ORGANISATION

Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship in a Voluntary Aided school rests with the Governing Body, after consultation with the Head Teacher. At the present time Collective Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by staff, clergy, visitors or the pupils themselves. A list of weekly themes is available for the whole year including some themes, which are planned around the major Christian festivals. Each half term a different adult is asked to lead our Worship at 9:00am.

In the classroom, in the hall and in the corridor the Christian Value for the week with memory verses of Bible quotations link with the themes and are displayed.

Special celebrations take place at

Harvest

Christmas

Easter

Significant times of school year e.g Trinity Day

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.

At the end of Foundation Stage and each Key Stage, we have an appropriate 'Pilgrimage' experience to allow the children to reflect on their journey through life in school, the benefits of attendance at a Church Aided School and to anticipate their next stage of development.

The Vicar of Cookridge has a number of roles in the provision of Collective Worship both in and out of school. As the leader, facilitator, consultant and resource person, he crosses many boundaries within the relationship of the school and the church.

In order that Collective Worship is effective, careful planning, preparation and organisation is needed to ensure that it is a special time for all pupils and that acts of worship are as meaningful as possible. The use of the conservation area allows worship to take place out of doors with reflection and appreciation of the natural world and God's Creation.

Christian symbols and artefacts are used to provide a central focus to enhance the atmosphere of worship and celebration during Collective Worship.

A wide range of books, posters and artefacts are available to use for those leading acts of worship.

## **CHRISTIAN VALUES**

We seek to explore the meanings of Christian values and their significance through weekly acts of worship delivered by our Head teacher, Deputy Head, Holy Trinity Church, Tinshill Free Church and class teachers. These Christian values are taught as part of our curriculum and embedded in our school life.

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, love 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.

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: Love

Term 6: Courage

## **INCLUSION**

As an Inclusive School, ALL pupils, irrespective of social background, culture, race, gender, differences in ability and disabilities have access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum which includes Collective Worship. We aim to meet the needs of the children in our care by: setting suitable learning challenges; responding to pupils' diverse learning needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment.

## **INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION**

All teaching members of staff will be expected to participate fully in the school's acts of collective worship when required. Members of the Governing Body are welcome to join the school at worship times.

Visitors are invited to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis.

The Governing Body and Collective Worship leader will monitor and evaluate Collective Worship in line with school policy.

## **RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL**

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education and /or Worship. However, in choosing to send their children to a Church school the Governors expect that parents are thereby committing to their child's full participation in the Christian life of the school, including RE and Worship.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually by the Governing body and staff of the school.