

CLARICE CLIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Updated 2009

'A happy community school creating bright futures by celebrating success'

At Clarice Cliff Primary School we wish to provide

- an atmosphere of natural affection;
- a happy, community school where everyone is encouraged to do their best and success is celebrated;
- where there is a feeling of security and an ordered way of life;
- where high self-esteem is encouraged;
- where high standards and values are fostered;
- and, where progress and achievement are positively acknowledged and celebrated.

For all children we offer a balanced and broadly based curriculum with stimulating experiences and situations for learning within school and in the wider community.

Opportunities are given to respond to challenging experiences, to enjoy acquiring and using knowledge and skills, to question and explore, to acquire positive attitudes, behaviour and personal beliefs.

The development of respect for religious and moral values and cultural diversity are encouraged as is the ability to reflect on the world and express innermost thoughts and feelings, and to acquire a feeling of a sense of worth and pride.

We believe that these high standards can best be achieved with a sound partnership between pupils, parents, staff and the community and constantly seek to encourage and develop this.

In addition to our mission statement (see top of page), the general aims of our school therefore are:-

- To provide quality experiences in all aspects of school life so enabling the children to be happy, successful and keen to learn, thus helping them to grow into young people who are fulfilled and able to make a positive contribution to society.
- To provide a warm and welcoming family ethos, encouraging an atmosphere of natural affection, a feeling of security and an ordered way of life. Our school is a place where success is celebrated, high self esteem, high standards and achievement are positively fostered.
- To encourage children to develop a happy way of being together, that their self respect leads to a respect for the rights and needs of other children and adults; from their own culture and other cultures and for the opposite gender.
- To educate the whole child by presenting a total experience, which is right and relevant to his/her individuality, thus fostering the child's intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual development.

- To teach a broad and balanced curriculum by carefully planning and delivering the National Curriculum accompanied by assessment of the children's progress; we also provide time for reflection and evaluation by the teaching staff.
- To recognise that change and progress are an important part of everyday life and, therefore, aim to equip children to cope and flourish in dealing with the challenges faced by such changes.
- To promote high standards through a sound partnership between pupils, parents, staff and the community.

Collective Worship

In our school we acknowledge the differences in pupils' backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, but seek to provide an atmosphere which encourages respect and acceptance of this diversity, and develops personal worth and pride and a sense of belonging.

Our Collective Worship seeks to enhance this. We aim to develop the sense that each child is special and to provide opportunities to promote spiritual development in the means and moods of worship, discovering reverence and reflecting upon 'ultimate questions'.

Within Collective Worship we therefore aim to:-

- Help pupils explore the concept of God and His love.
- Help people feel good about themselves and about others.
- Lead pupils to feel and become a valued member of the School family and the community.
- Help pupils to work together for the good of the school and its community.
- Help pupils feel secure.
- Lead pupils to share in the joys, achievements, fears, doubts and certainties of life.

Worship at Clarice Cliff Primary School acknowledges the presence of God, seeks to promote a deeper understanding and encourages response in thanksgiving. This includes providing opportunities to encourage personal reflection, spiritual growth, expression of faith and the sharing of Christian values through a variety of means and moods(see Appendix 1), and to reflect upon stories from the bible or other writings which influence our values and beliefs.

Statutory requirements

Collective Worship MUST:-

- ◆ Be provided for all pupils (not nursery) in maintained schools on each school day. This may be at any time and in any educationally viable grouping on the school premises.
- ◆ Be the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the governing body.
- ◆ Be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief, on most occasions over any term. It must not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- ◆ Take into account the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils.
- ◆ Be withdrawable from.

Collective Worship SHOULD:-

- ◆ Be appropriate to an educational setting.
- ◆ Be given appropriate status.
- ◆ Provide a sense of occasion separate from other school activities, including assemblies.
- ◆ Be different in character from worship amongst a voluntary group with beliefs in common.
- ◆ Foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response.
- ◆ Be respectful of pupil and staff integrity.
- ◆ Be inclusive rather than divisive, protecting the rights of individuals and minorities.
- ◆ Be challenging and enjoyable.
- ◆ Be relevant to the needs of pupils, including different learning styles e.g. visual, auditory and kinaesthetic etc.
- ◆ Encourage pupil participation.

Main School Collective Worship

Leaders:- Head, Deputy, Class teachers, Visiting Speakers

Additional objectives:-

- ◆ To develop the sense of a School Family and togetherness in God's presence.
- ◆ To share Whole School Christian values.
- ◆ To share in worship and thanksgiving.
- ◆ To share in some values and aspirations of other faiths.
- ◆ To meet and listen to visiting speakers from a variety of Christian denominations.

Main School Celebration

Leaders:- Class Teacher (and children, if appropriate) see rota.

Additional objectives:-

- ◆ To give pupils the opportunity to organise and deliver acts of worship with the help of their teacher.
- ◆ To celebrate talents and achievements.

Content of worship

A termly rota of themes is devised by the Headteacher/Class teacher, Main School Worship and Main School Celebration, which are mainly Christian in nature. Songs and music are related and prayer is always included. Where possible children are invited to say their own prayers. All staff receive a list of themes for the next half-term, before the end of the current half-term.

Themes for class worship may be connected to the above rota or may be influenced by issues related to the particular class, year group or topic.

Creating Atmosphere

Staff have their own expertise for creating the right atmosphere for Collective Worship but the following guide must be followed:-

1. Suitable music can be chosen with help from the Headteacher/Music Co-ordinator.
2. A set arrangement for seating is in operation.
3. Pupils should enter and leave the Hall quietly through the appropriate doors.
4. All teaching staff are expected to participate in Collective Worship (unless they have agreed with the Headteacher not to participate) as this contributes to the 'specialness' of the time together.
5. In class a Circle Time setting may be considered to create greater intimacy during some class worship times.

Visitors

We recognise that members of the local community are important resources for all education including collective worship. Some visits are pre-arranged but others may be identified and organised on request to the Headteacher.

Resources

Books and artefacts for use in RE, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education and in worship are available from the Staff Room or H.T Office

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and arrangements can be made for children withdrawn to be supervised. The Headteacher will always discuss these arrangements with parents in order to come to an agreed procedure. Staff may ask to be excused from acts of worship on grounds of faith but should discuss this with the Headteacher

Recording and Monitoring

Class Worship is planned weekly with a weekly theme. The themes for each half term are produced in advance and also detail suggested music and songs as well as staff responsibilities for Collective Worship. The Headteacher, Governors and RE co-ordinator monitor the delivery of the acts of Class and Whole School Worship via direct observation. Targets for development are set and staff training is organised as appropriate.

Our School Creed

Clarice Cliff Primary is our school
Make it a happy place,
Where love is all around,
Love for one another and all people,
Let it be a place of peace,
Let us remember that many hands build a school but
Many hearts make a school.
Amen