

Our vision: **'Let your light shine'** based on Matthew 5.16

Egglescliffe C.E. Primary School



Collective Worship Policy & Guidance

Reviewed:
To be reviewed by:

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EGGLESCLIFFE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Mission:

Egglescliffe is a school founded in the Christian faith, which embodies Christian values in its daily life by promoting, encouraging and celebrating the abilities of all within the school community.

We:

- Welcome all children;
- Are distinguished by the way we promote attitudes of mutual respect, care and responsibility to all within the school community;
- Attach high priority to strong links between school, home, and parish with active participation of parents, local clergy and academy councillors;
- Promote understanding of the Christian faith, particularly through the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship together with a respect for world faiths
- Nurture a love of learning, enhance the potential of all within the school family, and encourage a positive contribution to society and the environment.
- And we aim to SPARKLE!

Rationale

The school aims to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.

Egglescliffe CE Primary School serves the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

At Egglescliffe CE Controlled Primary School Collective Worship is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The staff and Governors see the main purpose of the school as providing an excellent education both academically and socially in a Christian context for all its pupils. Collective Worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community.

Our school is distinctively different to non-Church schools, as a result of the importance placed on the spiritual life of all members of the school community – pupils, teachers, governors and non teaching staff. The careful planning and delivery of the R.E. curriculum, and the quality of the worship offered in school make a significant contribution to spiritual development of all in our school community. Our worship allows children to see themselves as being unique and special individuals. Such an understanding encourages children to relate one with another in a supportive and respectful manner.

Definition

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although collective worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. During worship we aim to learn about and praise God. It therefore involves us gathering together to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, our local community and our world as gifts from God. It is a time when children can celebrate their social and academic achievements and a time to foster positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

As a school with an Anglican foundation, collective worship at Eggescliffe reflects the traditions established within the Church of England, as such there is significant partnership with the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Eggescliffe.

The Legal Basis of Collective Worship

The Education Acts of 1988 and 1993 re-emphasised the obligation laid on schools to provide a daily act of worship.

In a Controlled School arrangements for collective worship are made by the governing body after consultation with the Head Teacher. Within the governing body, the foundation governors have particular responsibility for seeing that the character of the school is reflected in the worship. Acts of collective worship may be held off the school premises if they are additional to the statutory act of collective worship.

Collective Worship can take place at any time of the school day but it cannot be designated as teaching time.

Objectives

Collective Worship at Eggescliffe CE Primary will be a stimulating and enjoyable experience in which children can develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes. We intend to achieve this by providing children with opportunities to:

- *Develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.*
- *Develop a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships.*
- *Experience thanks giving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear and forgiveness.*
- *Develop awareness and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs.*
- *Encounter beliefs, prayers, symbols and songs from the Anglican tradition in an appropriate manner.*
- *Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues.*
- *Respond through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.*
- *Celebrate the Festivals and Saints days of the church year.*
- *Share in church life and Christian practice.*
- *Affirm values and commitment and reinforce positive attitudes throughout the school.*

Provision of Worship

There is a daily act of worship for reception Class to Year 6 pupils, currently provided in the following way:

Day of the week	Worship activity	Led by
Monday	Whole school worship	Member of SLT*
Tuesday	Whole school worship- celebration in song	Staff rota*
Wednesday	Key Stage worship	Staff rota*
Thursday	Think on Thursday Key Stage worship	Member of SLT*
Friday	Whole school worship	Member of SLT*

* Where possible children lead worship alongside the key adult

Preparing for whole school worship is a significant responsibility as we aim to provide thought provoking responses from all those involved. Given the spread of understanding across the primary age range we do split into phase groups twice a week to enable a greater depth of discussion and understanding about our worship theme.

Worship begins with a welcome to all present, such as:

- The Lord is here / *His Spirit is with us*
- Peace be with you/ *and also with you*

and all present are invited to share God's Peace with one another. Children are then invited to say a Gathering Prayer together before moving on to content such as a story, drama, real life event related to a passage from the Bible, or a Christian value.

Opportunities to reflect on wider questions are provided, and often children are asked to talk with their response partner to elicit a response.

Hymns from a range of genres are included in worship, and are chosen with the weekly theme in mind.

We conclude with prayers such as our School Creed or the Lord's Prayer to remind our school community of the theme and of our collective responsibility to support each other.

Planning

The Collective Worship leader distributes the outline themes on a termly basis. These are based on the following:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Core Christian values including generosity (charity)
- Significant events- such as transition, bereavement, supporting other through ill health
- Pupil voice

There is flexibility to address local issues as they arise, for example the School Council suggested a week promoting peace, and the rota was changed.

Those leading the worship then take responsibility for the unique content and style of delivery.

Worship At Other Times

Children are invited to say prayers, or to make reflective contributions at other times, such as prior to lunch, or home-time and during the Encounter sessions at church. There are many reflection areas set out in school where children can interact with resources or leave written messages/prayers.

Visitors

The school welcomes visitors to lead worship, however all visitors must be approved by the Headteacher and act in accordance with the agreed Visiting Speaker Policy in addition to understanding the Christian Foundation of the school.

Holy Communion

Children have opportunity to learn about Holy Communion in RE during Year 5. The incumbent from St John the Baptist is intrinsic in teaching the unit, helping the children understand the link with the Passover tradition and the significance of the service to Christians today. A service of Holy Communion is then held for parents and children to attend in church.

The Eucharist also forms part of the Leavers' Service at St John's in Year 6.

Partnership With Our Parish

We work in partnership with the congregation at St John the Baptist, Eggescliffe, to enhance the worshipful experience offered to the staff and children. In Early Years the children attend PIPS once a month: from Reception to Year 6 there is a termly visit to Encounter, a mixture of song, story and active prayer stations.

We pass on information about worship held in the church to our parents via newsletters and emails to invite them to regular services and special events.

Parents are also invited to join us as we celebrate Christmas with services led by the children, which take place in the church.

Many of our pupils attend out of school activities such as the Bible Study Group and Lighthouse. Provision has been put in place for activities to extend to Year 7.

Inclusion

Worship is provided for all children at Eggescliffe and makes a valuable contribution to their education. Worship has a large part to play in promoting the school's core Christian values such as love, forgiveness, truth and koinonia. Such values help to establish respect towards others and remove prejudice / misunderstanding when exploring stereotyping, discrimination, sexism and racism.

All pupils, irrespective of ability, age, gender or race are entitled to equal opportunity in terms of spiritual development.

Monitoring And Evaluation

This is undertaken on a weekly basis through immediate feedback from pupils and staff about the worship themes. Consideration is also given to the following:

- Written evaluation of worship from pupils and staff

- Learning visits undertaken by governors
- Informal feedback from all involved in the Encounter sessions at St John's Church, Eggescliffe
- Pupil voice- garnering their opinion on the learning opportunities and their first hand experience, including an annual questionnaire
- Informal feedback from parents

Continued Professional Development

Staff are encouraged to attend external courses to improve their knowledge and expertise in planning worship. This has included events organised by Barnabus, and those delivered by Durham and Newcastle Joint Education Board, and York Diocese.

At Eggescliffe CE Primary School we believe that sharing the outstanding practice shown by our own practitioners is hugely beneficial and this happens on a regular basis.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from worship as in any school but it is hoped that the majority of parents choosing a church school would welcome their child taking part in worshipful activity.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from one aspect of worship, or the range of activities, must request this by writing to the Headteacher on an annual basis, outlining their wishes.

Arrangements For Complaints

As we always work closely with parents, consulting them at every stage, complaints about worship provision are extremely rare. However, should there be a concern, the following procedure should be followed in line with our complaints procedure:

1. Parents are encouraged to discuss the concern with the class teacher. (If the concern is not resolved at this stage proceed to 2).
2. Parents make an appointment to discuss the concern with the Headteacher. The class teacher may or may not be present. (Unresolved concerns move to 3).
3. The matter should be referred to the Chair of the Local Academy Council. A letter explaining the concern should be given to the school office addressed to the Chair of the Academy Council, Eggescliffe CE Primary School.