

# Collective Worship Policy



Believe Enjoy Succeed Together  
"I can do everything through God who gives me strength"  
Philippians 4:13

## Cronton CE Primary School

### The KEYS Curriculum

Knowledge and skills

Empower

You to

Succeed

### Keys To Success



Knowledge



Skills



Vocabulary

#### KEYS Curriculum

At Cronton CE Primary School our KEYS Curriculum is built around the National Curriculum, enriched to reflect the children and community we teach in. As a church school our Christian ethos and school values are the heart of everything we do. We believe every child can be their BEST. With our Vision statement reflecting this.

"I can do everything through God who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13



## KEYS Curriculum

### Curriculum Intent

Our Curriculum has been designed by Cronton CE to provide a bespoke, unique and exciting curriculum that is tailor-made to suit our children, their learning and their futures. Every child is unique and important. They are at the centre of their learning; starting as part of a class, whole school, the local community and then on to their future role in modern Britain and as a future global citizen. Our KEYS curriculum develops each child and the understanding that **Knowledge and skills Empower You to Succeed**.

We maintain a broad and balanced approach to our curriculum, which alongside English and Mathematics will provide our children with skills, knowledge and vocabulary rich experiences that excite and engage. We will foster attitudes and qualities which will enable them to become confident, caring, respectful and responsible citizens. We offer a spiritual, moral, social and cultural experience for all through our curriculum and also through extra-curricular clubs and activities, day trips and residential trips away. Our curriculum delivers sequenced learning to ensure it will build upon what children already know to give them powerful knowledge and skills and make relevant links.

Our curriculum ensures that all children receive quality first teaching for every subject with the highest of expectation for all. We provide a quality education that is inclusive and equips our children to be lifelong learners. We use a wide variety of resources to assist us in delivering this bespoke curriculum including specialist teachers, visits and curriculum enhancement weeks and ensure links and relationships are meaningful to them. We deliver this through our Values Curriculum, Core Curriculum and our Foundation Curriculum.

This policy is designed to state the approaches and aims towards the teaching and assessment of the R.E curriculum in Cronton C. E Primary School. With the emphasis on the Christian teachings from the Bible, it also serves to state aims that the children are taught multi-cultural beliefs and aspects of morality in line with the Church of England's doctrine.

### **Intent**

The Aims of Religious Education as a Church of England School, the foundation of our approach, is the Christian faith. The school enjoys strong links with the church, and this allows everyone to learn about and practice Christian beliefs, and all are invited to take part in its community life. The school is committed to respecting the personal values and beliefs (religious or otherwise) of parents and children. As an Aided Church of England school, we believe that R.E. in general and Christian teaching in particular play an important part in our teaching explicitly through weekly R.E lessons and implicitly through our teaching of the Christian values in collective worship and in everyday school life. These lessons are linked also to the statements on collective worship and the social, cultural and moral development.

They are also linked to the mission statement and the general aims of the school which are: Our mission is:

**To provide a wide range of high-quality educational and life experiences so that the children can attain their full potential within a happy and Christian environment based on Gospel values.**

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE . . .

Based on the Christian faith, we aim to teach the children to be considerate and respectful of themselves, others and the environment with everyone leading by example and demonstrating our belief in the gospel values.



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We aim to develop the children in our care by giving them wide ranging experiences so that they gain knowledge and understanding of the world about them and value the opportunities that they have.

We aim to give them a firm grounding in the skills needed to succeed by being literate, numerate, creative and to possess technology skills to discover information for themselves within a safe, purposeful and open learning environment.

We aim to develop the whole child so that they are confident and motivated to learn and develop their own individual abilities and talents in order to achieve success that is recognised and celebrated.

We aim to make school a place of happy memories and enjoyable learning, where all children are given a chance to shine and to leave the school as well-rounded individuals.

We aim to involve the parents in the partnership of their child's education at our school and foster relationships that will support the development of their child.

We aim to develop our own skills and knowledge as we recognise that learning is a lifelong journey and all staff are committed to their own development to benefit ourselves and the children we teach.

At Cronton C. E. Primary School, our collective worship is Christian based. 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. Our half termly plan will identify regular opportunities to listen to stories from other faiths to compare with and further explore our Christian value focus. Other faiths will may also be included into collective worship during special holy days and festivals throughout the year.

For Collective Worship our aims are:

- To give the children in our care an understanding of the teachings of the Church of England, its principles and practices, appropriate to their age and ability with a focus on the core Christian values chosen by the school.
  - To give the children an insight into the wealth of stories from the old and new testaments, and how these are linked to our living in a Christian way.
  - To introduce children to the fact that other people in our world have different beliefs from us, and to begin to develop in the pupils an understanding and respect of these faiths.
  - To help children try to answer bigger questions in life.
  - To develop spiritual awareness, vocabulary and concepts necessary for the potential of faith awareness.
  - To make a distinctive contribution to the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and academic development of our children.
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- To support our children in reflecting upon, developing their own spirituality and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes
  - To celebrate our school values underpinned by our Christian beliefs and the Gospel values – respect, truthfulness, celebration, kindness and consideration, generosity, responsibility, patience and self-control and inclusion.



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- To begin to develop their own beliefs, attitudes, moral values and practices
- To foster the spiritual, moral, social, cultural development of all children

### Implementation

Our collective worships 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.

Whole school worships take place each morning. The worship begins at 9:00 a.m. and lasts for 15 minutes with celebration on Friday lasting 30 minutes.

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 the music or hymn. A candle is often 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 prayers throughout the year. Our school prayer tree is a tool by which children can write and share their own prayers.

The children sit in their class groups, all but Y6, on the floor; the oldest children sit on benches.

**Monday** - Worship led by Mrs Thomson and Mr Tunstall. This worship is our singing worship and we learn new songs that tie in with our theme for the half term.

**Tuesday** - Worship led by children's church leader Jodi Whitehouse. This worship is linked to our focus Christian value and Jodi takes us through a series from the bible.

**Wednesday** - Worship is led in classrooms by teachers. This worship uses the resource Picture News. This allows children time to reflect and discuss current events with a clear link to Christian values and key Christian concepts.

**Thursday** - Worship led by a member of SLT. This worship is based around Bibles stories that link to our theme and a number of resources (e.g. Roots and Fruits) are used to support this. This worship is followed by a Windows, Mirrors, Doors spiritual reflection.

**Friday** - Celebration led by SLT. This is to celebrate the work of the children and their efforts both in and out of school. Birthdays are also celebrated with prayers said at its completion.

\* Classes also lead worship throughout the year based on the term's Christian value. This can be on a variety of days.

### Planning Collective Worship

The school has a three-year programme of worship themes. These are linked to key Christian values chosen by the school. A half - termly rota is displayed in the worship cupboard together with a list of



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who is leading which act of worship. The themes are a guide, but if saints days, special days or another important event occurs, this will also be included in the worship plan. There is a planning group made up of the Headteacher, collective worship co-ordinator and the Incumbent that meets each term to plan worships for the term 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 provides 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.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. Both planned and spontaneous prayer are encouraged.

A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer (which 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.

All worship should be invitational. Children are asked to respond, join in prayer and take an active part in worship. Children have the opportunity to lead worship regularly and to write and share their own prayers.

### **Ethos Group**

The Ethos group meet regularly. They are a group of children who have applied and been selected to support the school's Christian ethos and distinctiveness. They support worship planning and work with other members of the class to develop worship across the school. They have regular opportunities to lead worship in school.

### **Class Worship**

Each class takes it in turn to lead worship, starting with Year 6. Parents are invited to attend and to remain afterwards for a cup of coffee or tea. Class Worship should include prayers and a suitable song or hymn. They should be linked to the current Christian value and the format is up to the class and the teacher.



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### **Links with the Church**

Our main link is with Cronton Mission Church and St Luke's Church.

The school also takes part in three services per year - at Harvest, Christmas and a Reception welcome service. 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 the church and the school.

### **Right of withdrawal**

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

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

### **Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs**

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.

### **Governors**

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.

### **Impact**

The impact of collective worship is clear to see when you walk the corridors at Cronton CofE. This is evident in the way children interact and talk to one another, the way staff and children interact, the way that prayer is a real part of school life, the appreciation that children have for the world around them and the beliefs and values of others in their community, and in the way that children have a real understanding of spirituality.

### **Courageous Advocacy**

Courageous advocacy is defined by the Church of England as "the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard."

A courageous advocate is someone who supports, champions and speaks up for a cause that is important and meaningful to them. Courage is needed to persevere and stand up for something or someone you believe in, to make a difference.

### **Courageous Advocacy at Cronton CE**

At Cronton C of E Primary School we want to support and encourage our children to become courageous advocates, not just locally but nationally and globally.



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At some point in life we will all face challenges and need support to help us overcome these barriers. We teach our children that it is important to help others when we see a need. We teach this in many ways: through our work on Christian values; through our class worship looking at Picture News; by looking at and reflecting on stories from the Bible and other world faiths and world views, as well as learning about other courageous advocates. We want our children to have confidence to discuss and debate big ideas, to challenge injustice and engage in activities that can bring about change on some level.

All acts of courageous advocacy at Cronton are driven by our school's Christian vision: "I can do everything through God who gives me strength" which reminds us that, in all situations, God gives us strength to be courageous and 'agents of change'. Children act together with a purpose that people may live happily together in unity. Our Trust's vision encompasses God's vision that everyone should live well together. Courage is one of our core Christian values and is at the heart of all actions and decision making by children and adults. Another core Christian value is service. We actively promote the value of serving God and loving and serving our local and wider communities.

Jesus spoke up for people who were disadvantaged, disempowered and ignored by their communities. Children are encouraged to reflect on Jesus' actions and teachings to inform their own values, judgements and courageous choices. Other learning experiences, including, PSHE lessons, character education and learning about British values, enables children to grow in character and independence, develop their sense of respect and justice, and grow in courage "to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" (Proverbs 31:8).

It's our belief that everyone has the power to change the world for the better. To this end, we know that all of our pupils and our whole school community has the potential to be advocates of change, and we both encourage and celebrate them taking responsibility for doing this within the school community and wider afield.

Throughout our school, and in particular our PSHE and RE curriculums, we learn of opportunities for social action and where appropriate to challenge injustice. Every child learns about courageous advocates from across the globe, both past and present, that have faced injustice and overcome barriers in order to help others for the greater good. As part of their learning, the children reflect on what injustice these courageous advocates have faced and how they changed the world for the better.

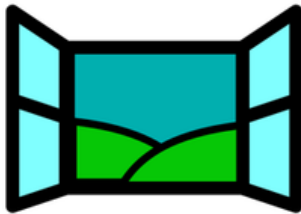


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### Spirituality at Cronton CE

Our shared language for spirituality:

#### WINDOWS



#### LEARNING

- Opportunities for children to be aware of the world in new ways, looking out into the world.
- To wonder about life's 'WOWS'. Things that are amazing.
- To think about life's 'OWS' that take us by surprise!
- Learning about life in all its fullness.

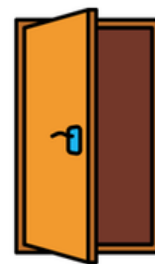
#### MIRRORS



#### REFLECTING

- Opportunities to reflect on their experiences.
- Looking inside yourself.
- Consider life's big questions and reach for some possible answers.
- Learning from life by exploring our own insights and those of others.

#### DOORS



#### RESPONDING

- Opportunities for children to respond.
- Moving onto a new path or situation.
- To do something creative to develop and apply our ideas.
- Learning to live out our beliefs and values.

We have a Windows, Mirrors, Doors display in our school hall. Each week, worship is ended with a reflection and reflection questions are sent back to class. Children respond to these in their own way, at their own time, during the week.

Here is an example below:

 ***How did the Samaritan show respect to the man?***

 ***Do you think it is important to treat EVERYBODY with respect? Why?***

 ***What ways can you show respect to EVERYBODY today?***



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We also use this language as an assessment tool in foundation subjects. Using this means that learning goes from being just head knowledge and instead becomes transformative and meaningful: it becomes heart knowledge.

Here is an example below of how it has been used in RE at the end of a unit on Pilgrimages:

### Life as a Journey - Reflection Task



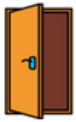
**LEARNING**

What have you seen about pilgrimages during this topic?



**REFLECTING**

Do you think life is like a journey? Why?  
What has been the most significant moment in your life journey?



**RESPONDING**

Draw a picture of you in your future job. Around your picture, write down some things that you would like to have achieved or some characteristics you would like to be known for.



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### Appendix 1

#### 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 this in your name  
Amen

##### Infant Lunchtime Prayer

Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for everything,  
Amen

##### Junior Lunchtime Prayer

For what we are about to receive  
May the Lord make us truly thankful  
Amen