



Wonderfully made - At Culgaith C of E School we believe that we are all uniquely created individual parts of one body.

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Collective Worship Policy

Our vision

At Culgaith C of E School we believe that we are all uniquely created individual parts of one body.

Our school is a place where we value the character of every child and strive for all to be ambitious for themselves and their world.

Our school vision encompasses our ambitions as a school. We strive to celebrate the unique qualities of all of our students and promote ambition for all. Our vision is inspired by Psalm 139:14: "You are fearfully and wonderfully made" and by 1 Corinthians 12:12 – "Many parts but one body."

The distinctive nature of our vision highlights the value we give to our school culture and diversity and affirms our belief that by allowing each pupil to flourish, we can grow together and prepare our pupils as active global citizens.

Our distinctly Christian ethos enables us to weave our Christian values into the fabric of the school, providing ambitious learning opportunities, promoting achievement in every area and nurturing social, emotional and spiritual well-being.

Through our core Christian values we aim to provide our pupils with the key skills to lead successful, fulfilled lives.

PREPARED BY: Lynn Dobinson

RATIFIED BY: Governing Body on 15th January 2024

NEXT REVIEW BY: January 2027

Our vision for Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life of Culgaith CE School. It is part of the outworking of the school's Christian vision and is a time for the whole school community to gather, pause and

reflect their own spirituality, values and place in the world and drawing on the opportunities described by the DfE (circular 1/94).

‘...there is a strong educational case for experience of worship being part of school life, since its omission lessens the possibility of understanding traditions to which worship is essential;’

Church of England Vision for Education 2016

Collective worship is not the same as an assembly, though can take place in the same gathering. A school may hold any number of assemblies each week but must have a daily act of collective worship. Collective worship can be held in class or tutor groups for a shorter period of time.

Aims

Inclusive, Invitational, Inspirational

The aims of collective worship **in this school** are:

- Collective worship will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect as well as developing community and understanding of living well together.
- It aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational
- It is central to the life of the school
- It supports pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Supports pupils in their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Introduces pupils to a variety of forms of Christian worship that reflect the rich diversity of experience in Anglican (and other Christian traditions) locally and globally.
- Enables pupils to engage in silence or stilling, reflection and prayer
- Provides opportunities to explore the ‘Big Questions’ of life and to recognise the responses that have been made to these by people of faith
- Affirms the uniqueness and contribution of every individual in the sight of God

Legal Framework

Since 1944 collective worship has been a legal requirement in maintained schools. The law requires that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In a church school these acts must be distinctively Christian in nature. By inviting the school community to worship, we need to consider the varied backgrounds that the school community come from and therefore collective worship is invitational rather than confessional in nature.

At this school collective worship is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and is consistent with the beliefs of the Church of England.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

The content and planning of collective worship should be varied. The themes for each week/half term/term are shared with staff and visiting clergy at the beginning of each term and include ideas for stories from the Bible that support this. However, the pattern is flexible and on occasions, will focus on a response to local or national events.

The school visits the local church for worship, particularly at major festivals in the Christian calendar Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost.

We also use outdoor areas e.g. our Willow Chapel.

Resources

Long term planning themes were reviewed in 2021. Links are made to a variety of resources recommended by Carlisle Diocese that are available to use when planning collective worship. These include Carlisle Diocese, Fruits from the Roots, Christian Aid and other story/parable-based explorations including resources from the world-wide church.

Responsibilities

RE Coordinator & Headteacher share the responsibility for managing day to day acts of collective worship:

Identifying and planning themes

Support where required for those leading worship

Identifying training needs

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship

Foundation Governors – monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship in our school through governor observations and ensure collective worship is consistent with the trust deed. The governor with collective worship responsibility will report annually to the full governing board and propose any necessary amendments to the School Development Plan, including any need for staff development or training. **See Appendix 4.**

Leaders of collective worship – plan and deliver acts of worship.

Visitors

We encourage guest leaders of collective worship throughout the year. Some of these may be linked to a specific project or organisation. Please see additional diocesan guidance for religious or faith visitors taking part in collective worship.

<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/documents/guidance-staff-when-faith-representatives-visit-ce-school/>

<https://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/documents/guidance-faith-representatives-visiting-schools/>

Components of our CW sessions:

Each session of Collective worship in school shall contain the following set elements:

- **Gathering** – *Pupils will enter the CW venue with stimulation of the senses. This may be an image, artefact on the worship table, music, sounds or scents. A candle will be lit to signify the start of worship, the pupils will respond ‘Jesus is the light of the world.’*
- **Engaging** – *This is the main content of the session. It will always contain reference to the bible. It might be a story, role-play activity, powerpoint, video clip and might be delivered by the teacher or a guest. It will usually follow the planned theme, but may also reference a current event or festival. Group praise is an important component and pupils will regularly engage in singing as part of this.*
- **Responding** – *Pupils are given time to reflect on what they have seen or heard. This may be prompted by reflection questions and may comprise of shared responses following group discussion or a period of thoughtful silence.*
- **Sending** – *Worship will conclude with a prayer and the candle will be extinguished. Music or singing may take place as pupils leave the worship space.*

Review

There will be a review every three years of this policy. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the collective worship leader, together with senior leaders and governors. This will include discussions with other members of staff, observation of teaching and monitoring of children’s work. Evaluation of teaching plans will form part of any review. The outcomes will influence the school development plan.

This guidance takes into account current requirements for collective worship in the new SIAMS schedule from September 2018