



Carlton VC Church of England
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 26

'I am the vine, you are the branches; those that abide in me and I in them will bear much fruit' (John 15:5)

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Staff

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CARLTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

Collective Worship at Carlton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is central to our life as a school community and is a time when we come together to reflect, celebrate and grow spiritually within a Christian framework. Our acts of collective worship are inclusive, invitational and inspiring, enabling all members of the school community to engage meaningfully regardless of faith background.

Collective Worship reflects and promotes **The Carlton Way**:

"At Carlton we teach with compassion in a creative and collaborative Christian community that promotes a love of learning, growth and success for all."

Our worship is rooted in our overarching Christian value of **Compassion**, supported by **Creativity, Collaboration and Community**, and inspired by our school strapline:

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."
(John 15:5)*

2. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- The Education Act 1988
- Church of England guidance on Collective Worship
- SIAMS Evaluation Schedule

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school, we provide daily collective worship that is **wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**, while being inclusive and respectful of the beliefs of all pupils and families.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship, and staff have the right to withdraw from leading or attending worship. Any withdrawal will be managed sensitively and respectfully.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Carlton aims to:

- Nurture the spiritual development of all pupils and adults
- Enable pupils to explore the Christian faith and the teachings of Jesus
- Provide opportunities for reflection, stillness and prayer
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and appreciation of God's world
- Promote our Christian values and support pupils' moral and emotional development
- Foster a strong sense of community and belonging
- Celebrate achievements, milestones and the richness of school life

4. The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Carlton is:

- **Daily**
- **Whole-school**, held at the end of the school day
- **Inclusive** – accessible to all
- **Invitational** – pupils are invited, not compelled, to pray or reflect
- **Reflective** – allowing space for stillness, mindfulness and personal response

Worship may include:

- Prayer (including the school prayer)
- Bible stories and Christian teaching
- Hymns and music
- Moments of silence and mindfulness
- Reflection on values and lived experiences
- Celebration of achievements
- Pupil-led worship, including Year 6 hosting sessions

5. Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned and led by a range of contributors, including:

- The Headteacher and teaching staff
- Visiting clergy, including the Reverend
- Pupils in Year 6
- Other visitors who support the Christian ethos of the school

Themes are carefully planned to ensure progression and balance and include:

- Christian values (with Compassion at the heart)
- Key Christian beliefs and teachings
- Bible stories
- The Christian calendar
- Spiritual themes such as hope, forgiveness, joy and service

6. Prayer and Reflection

Prayer is a valued and natural part of daily life at Carlton. We:

- Use a **school prayer** regularly during collective worship
- Say prayers before lunch and at the end of the school day
- Include prayer in staff meetings and Forest School sessions
- Encourage spontaneous prayer and reflection

Within classrooms:

- **Prayer trees** allow pupils to share prayers or reflections
- **Bibles are readily available** for exploration
- **Quiet reflection areas** enable pupils to pause, reflect or pray if they wish

Pupils are encouraged to engage at a level comfortable for them.

7. Awe, Wonder and Spirituality

We actively promote spirituality throughout the school day and wider community. Opportunities for awe and wonder are:

- Noticed, valued and celebrated
- Gathered and shared as a community

- Linked to worship, learning and lived experience

Spiritual development is embedded across the curriculum, the school environment and daily interactions, helping pupils to reflect on:

- Themselves
- Others
- The world
- God

8. Church Links and Christian Festivals

We have strong links with **St Mary's Church**, which enrich our collective worship and Christian life.

- The whole school visits St Mary's Church for **Christmas and Easter services**
- The Reverend regularly visits the school to lead worship
- Additional Christian events and celebrations take place throughout the year

These experiences deepen pupils' understanding of Christian traditions and strengthen school-church relationships.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Governing Body:** Ensures collective worship meets statutory requirements and reflects the school's Christian foundation
- **Headteacher:** Has overall responsibility for collective worship
- **Staff:** Support, plan and lead worship in line with the school's vision
- **Pupils:** Actively participate and increasingly lead worship

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated through:

- Pupil voice
- Staff reflection
- Governor involvement
- Feedback from clergy and visitors

This ensures worship remains meaningful, engaging and aligned with The Carlton Way.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the school community and reflects current Church of England guidance.