



School Vision:

*Pupils at our school are encouraged to be bold and live a fulfilling life through the values of **compassion, responsibility and courage** as they grow to have a better understanding of themselves, find their place in the world and learn what it means to love their neighbour.*

**Vicarage Park CE Primary  
Collective Worship Policy  
October 2021**

**This policy was established, and approved for implementation by the full  
Governing Body of [Vicarage Park \(VC\)](#) CE School**

Signed by the Chair of Governors:
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Dated: 17.11.21
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The name of our Collective Worship Governor is: <a href="#">Rev Shanthi Thompson</a>
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This policy is to be next reviewed in: October 2024
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## **Our vision for Collective Worship**

Collective worship is central to the life of [Vicarage Park VC](#) 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 use the use of 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 when possible, particularly at major festivals in the Christian calendar: [Harvest](#), [Christmas](#), [Easter](#).

We also use outdoor spaces where and when appropriate.

## **Resources**

The school uses a variety of resources recommended by Carlisle Diocese that are available to use when planning collective worship. Amongst others, we utilise materials from [Carlisle Diocese](#), [The Barnabas Trust](#), [SPCK](#), [Messy Church](#), [Christian Aid](#), [Simply Collective Worship](#) and other story/parable-based explorations, including resources from the world-wide church.

## **Responsibilities**

**Collective Worship lead** – with the Headteacher has the delegated responsibility for day to day acts of collective worship:

- Identifying and planning themes
- Supporting where required those leading worship
- Identifying training needs
- Monitoring and evaluating 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.

**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.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/documents/guidance-staff-when-faith-representatives-visit-ce-school/>

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

## **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*