



CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Governing Body		
Responsible department:	SLT		
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School Aims/Vision and Implementation

Carlinghow Academy aims to provide children with the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable all children equally to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.
- Implementation of the whole school behaviour policy which encourages respect, inclusion and the right to feel safe
- A whole school focus to coincide with anti-bullying week to raise awareness among children, parents and staff

Equal Opportunities

Our school seeks to foster warm, welcoming and respectful environments, which allow us to question and challenge discrimination and inequality, resolve conflicts peacefully and work and learn free from harassment and violence.

We recognise that there are similarities and differences between individuals and groups but we will strive to ensure that our differences do not become barriers to participation, access and learning and to create inclusive processes and practices, where the varying needs of individuals and groups are identified and met. We therefore cannot achieve equality for all by treating everyone the same.

We will build on our similarities and seek enrichment from our differences and so promote understanding and learning between and towards others to create cohesive communities.

Our school is clear about the need to actively support pupils from different religious backgrounds to participate in school trips and visits.

The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable all children to participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that all pupils can participate. In doing so, pupils, their parents and will be consulted.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly but not from school assemblies. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head Teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship but not from Assemblies.

The Collective Worship Policy of Carlinghow Academy is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement '*achieving excellence together*'.

It is a time where we come together to share and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes our failures). The worship of the school is based on promoting broadly Christian values, as such; the contributions of all staff, pupils, church and other visitors are valued highly.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Carlinghow Academy and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

- consider the wonders and worries of the world

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Carlinghow Academy it will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leader will plan themes and monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

The role of the Lead Governing Body is to ensure that there is provision for collective worship through school assemblies.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised so that EYFS/KS1 and KS2 assemblies take place in the dining room and gym at the same time. By grouping pupils by phase, Collective Worship allows for age appropriate discussions and content.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Carlinghow Academy. Leaders from faiths and non-religious groups within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these traditions.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

Other Faiths

We are committed to respecting each other's faith, stance and culture. Assemblies will allow pupils to consider other cultures and beliefs in the same way as RE is studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Assemblies will celebrate all religious occasions/celebrations and will allow pupils to gain an understanding of why other religions celebrate them as well as how these are celebrated. Pupils will be given the opportunity to reflect on similarities and differences between different faiths and their celebrations.

Record Keeping and Monitoring

Planning for assemblies will be undertaken by SLT/Subject Leader and a half-termly rota will be available. Feedback from pupils will be sought on an annual basis and records of any parental requests will be shared with appropriate staff.

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