



# **Collective Worship Policy**

**2024-27**

**“Work hard, be kind”**

## Carnarvon Primary School Collective Worship Policy

**THIS DOCUMENT IS** a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at Carnarvon Primary School.

### INTRODUCTION

- Carnarvon Primary School complies with legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.
- In our school 'collective' may refer to the whole school, key stage groups, or in some cases one or more classes. Collective worship can take place anywhere appropriate, such as within the classroom, the school hall or the school's outside areas.

### PRINCIPLES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (AND LINKS TO RE, SMSC AND BRITISH VALUES)

- Our collective worship aims to encourage a sense of unity and identity between all taking part and to set aside a time for reflection.
- The majority of our acts of collective worship are '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*' in line with requirements.
- When we pray in Collective Worship we may light a candle to heighten the sense of reverence.
- We also recognise the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in England and Great Britain. This relates to the school's position on promoting **British Values**.
- In addition, Collective Worship at Carnarvon Primary School is one of many means that the school uses to support the children's understanding and engagement of their **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development.
- Collective Worship is inclusive, and all pupils gain, no matter what their commitment and a sense of fellowship can be fostered by bringing the children together.

### THEMES

Collective Worship is planned from a framework of themes which are set out in a rolling programme, and are linked to the progression of the school year and the liturgical calendar.

- Collective Worship may sometimes be non-Christian and non-religious material, and may also reflect the religion of other cultures, but comparisons are made to Christian beliefs and worship.
- Collective Worship also looks at the life of notable people, and their work and contribution to society. Awe and wonder for the achievements of these people are included as part of our collective worship.
- Music, hymn singing, time for reflection and prayers as important and common features of our collective worship.

- Collective Worship is celebratory. In many assemblies, there is a celebration of the children's achievements. This is seen in the setting of inspiration and Christian beliefs and British Values.

### **LINKS TO CHURCHES**

- We have strong links with our local parish church' the youth worker for Bingham Methodists and Riverside Church who regularly takes assemblies.

### **THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, provides for the right of withdrawal from Religious Education or collective worship in local authority-maintained schools.
- There is no requirement to provide a reason and the school must comply with their request.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so.
- Should parents wish to exercise this right we will arrange for children to be supervised elsewhere in school.

### **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

- At Carnarvon Primary School, we aim to ensure that no member of the school community experiences discrimination within the learning environment because of their age; any disability they may have; their ethnicity, colour or national origin; their gender; their religion or beliefs.
- We value the diversity of individuals within our school and do not discriminate against anyone because of 'differences'. We believe that all our children matter and we value their families too. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when devising and implementing school policies and procedures.

### **REVIEW**

- All policies and guidance documents are subject to periodic evaluation and update.

*January 2024*