



## Collective Worship / “Assemblies” at Carlton Road Academy

Collective Worship aims to promote spiritual, moral, and cultural development. It is compulsory for all schools to perform an act of collective worship daily unless students ask for an exemption. However, it does not have to take place in a school assembly and can be done with smaller groups in individual classes.

*“To worship is to show a lot of love and adoration for something. Religious believers worship gods, and people can worship other people and things too.” <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/worship>*

When we come together to “worship” we therefore celebrate what we treasure and love as a school community, this may be a discussion about a value that is important to us or a question about the world that is special to us. About a story, an experience or a thought-provoking moment that enables us to reflect on our environment.

The guidance states that majority of collective worship across the term should have a broadly Christian character, but not every act of worship must. **Assemblies can include non-Christian material without depriving them of their Christian character.** Assemblies can include elements common to other religions as well as Christianity.

What holds people and communities together are relationships and values and these lie at the heart of our school. Collective worship and assemblies: **pull all members of the school together into a cohesive community.** promote the shared values of the school.

### **Why do we worship at school?**

We naturally want to celebrate the good and worthy things achieved by individuals and groups in our community. We may want to celebrate special or significant occasions within the school family and our community at large. We may want to reflect on wider world issues and challenges. We could wish to give thanks for goodness, fortune and gifts received. These readily form part of our school's collective worship. Worship has a way of changing our lives and giving us different perspectives on how we see our circumstances. It is a life skill to be broad minded, to see and understand the world from the point of view of those who follow the Christian or other faith instead of just our own perspectives, even if we may choose to take a different stance, especially if one is not personally “religious”; we believe in giving our pupils the wherewithal to make informed decisions.

### **The purpose of “Reflection”**

In our hectic adult lives and for children used to the busy day in school a moment to reflect is a valuable one.

*“Active, persistent, and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds that support it, and the further conclusions to which it tends, constitutes reflective thought.” John Dewey*

### **Parental Rights**

Whilst it is compulsory for schools to hold collective worship parents, if they wish, may request their child is removed from these events. Please see the useful links at the end of this document for further details. Should you still wish to do so, and we would hope having read the following details you might not, you should make an appointment to come to school and meet with our SMSC lead to discuss what to do next.

## Our weekly pattern of worship

### On Mondays we reflect on British Values

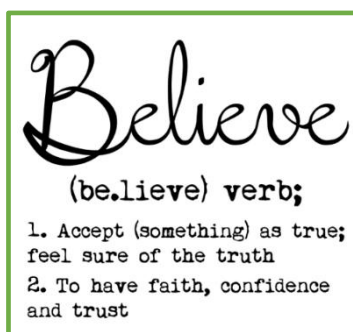
Our Monday assembly focusses on a topical issue linked to a British Value, this demonstrates how these values are part of everyday life and how they work in a real context.

Democracy Rule of Law Mutual Respect & Tolerance Individual Liability

While our British Values are Christian in nature, they are also applicable to the majority of faiths. You can read more about how we do this at the link below.

<https://www.carltonroadacademy.net/e-safety/parents/british-values-and-childrens-rights/>

**Reflection:** this changes each week and is part of the Picture News resource we use for this assembly.



### Tuesday's – "I believe..." Assemblies

This collective worship, which is divided into a gathering for the upper and lower school (same inspiration age related pitch), covers a breadth of content but is focussed on what it means to believe, which is presented as an open question.

The subject matter varies by the week but is topical and or relevant to the season, such as understanding the meaning behind an event in the Christian Calendar, an individual with important Christian heritage or a bible story e.g. "Why is Lent a special time?" "What is Epiphany?", "Who was St George and why is he our national saint?", "How did Joseph come to have a coat of many colours?"

The content will also include other faiths, events, or people with significant beliefs e.g.: "How is Eid al-Fitr celebrated?"; "Where is the river Ganges and why is this a sacred place for Hindu's?"; "What legacy did Nelson Mandela leave in South Africa?", "Why was Mary Seacole inspirational?"; "Where would you find the Guru Granth Sahib?"

**Reflections** These would be selected to be appropriate to the content of the collective worship but may be sourced from the purpose and content links suggested at the end of this document-

### **On Wednesday we consider children around the world (In Class worship)**



We use the Unicef resource within picture news to reflect on the Unicef Child's "Right" that has been highlighted and is topical for this week.

*The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is the basis of all of UNICEF's. It is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.*

See also <https://www.carltonroadacademy.net/e-safety/parents/british-values-and-childrens-rights/>



We may use the CAFOD assembly website too for inspiration for reflection and prayer.

**Suggested Reflections** (Source <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Children-s-prayers> )

<p>Dear God, Speak to our hearts and help us to see that we are one big family. Old or young, short, or tall, wherever we live, you made us all. Help us to share, however hard it seems, to make our world fair, And live out our dreams.</p>	<p>Jesus, friend, and brother, You know how it feels to leave your home and family, To carry nothing with you, to travel as a stranger. Help all refugees far from home, driven out by war and hunger. Lead them safely on, they are our sisters and brothers. Inspire us to show our love and a true welcome.</p>
<p><i>‘Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty.’ Isaiah 55:1</i> We thirst...for a world of peace and happiness. We thirst.... for people to be treated fairly. Lord, you give us the gift of water: the water of life.</p>	<p>God of life, Out of love for your people You raised Jesus from the dead, Bringing us hope, joy and a celebration of new life. Help us to share the good news of your love And work together to create a world that is fair, and full of your love.</p>
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qUTOC9nj40">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qUTOC9nj40</a> <b>I can do all things in you</b></p>	<p><b>Pope Francis' A Prayer for Our Earth</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaTJF1AkwcA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaTJF1AkwcA</a></p>
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0LsVtT1Wel">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0LsVtT1Wel</a> <b>The World we Want (Post Pandemic)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMfCV5QAo7c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMfCV5QAo7c</a> <b>Water of Life</b></p>

**On Thursdays – we make music and sing!**

“Music and spirituality are intricately related, with **spirituality often being the inspiration for the creation of music, and music so often creating the desired atmosphere for a spiritual occasion.**”

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/music-and-spirituality> this website explores the relevance of music to Christians and those of many other faiths.

Many faiths, especially Christians, believe that God created us with the ability to sing and make music.

Music is an important part of worship and praise to God for Christians and those of other faiths worldwide.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” Colossians 3:16

Hearing our children sing on a Tuesday afternoon cannot help but to make one smile and feel uplifted, it gives us a voice in common. It brings together all of our pupils from the range of heritages and countries that they hail.

In the Book of Psalms in the Bible, people are encouraged to “Sing to the Lord a new song” (Psalm 149.1). There is a place for old favourites but learning new songs is a vital aspect of keeping worship vibrant and alive, providing us with new ways and words to express worship, to learn about ourselves. Our music lead has devised a programme of songs which change each half term each of which introduces the children to a different musical genre, a time from history, reason to sing or simply to celebrate!

*If you struggle for joy...sing! If you are joyful...sing! In God’s perfect design and understanding of the human condition, he has bound joy and singing together for his people.*

<https://openthebible.org/article/seven-biblical-reasons-why-singing-matters/>

**Reflection – Sung on arrival and departure:**

I'd like to build a world a home  
 And furnish it with love  
 Grow apple trees and honeybees  
 And snow-white turtle doves

I'd like to teach the world to sing  
 In perfect harmony  
 I'd like to hold it in my arms  
 And keep it company

I'd like to see the world for once  
 All standing hand in hand  
 And hear them echo through the hills  
 For peace throughout the land

That's a song I hear  
 Let the world sing today.



## Aspire To Achieve

### Shared Vision And Values

A	<b>We are ambitious to ACHIEVE:</b>	we aim high, anything is possible!
S	<b>We show SELF-RESPECT:</b>	we support each other with empathy, tolerance & quiet confidence
P	<b>We are PROUD:</b>	positive, practical & we persevere
I	<b>We want to be INSPIRED:</b>	show our creativity, "Dream Big" we learn from our mistakes, are reflective & reciprocal, take responsibility for our actions
R	<b>We demonstrate RESILIENCE:</b>	there are exciting experiences at Carlton Road for all
E	<b>Everyone is EQUAL:</b>	

### Friday's – "ASPIRE..." Assemblies

These are times when we come together to celebrate the significant achievements of those in our school community, the achievements are worthy of note because the child, children, team has / have shown how they have upheld our school ethos and values, which is a cause for praise and recognition. These success stories give us the opportunity to reflect on the values that bind us a school and create a sense of community and pride. They help generate modest pride and self-respect.

Children who have demonstrated a particular effort to work within the school's ethos and towards our values are nominated by their class teacher, to have this experience shared, and receive a certificate to remember the moment. At the end of the presentations the children are all applauded by their peers.

The values we share and celebrate are Christian in their nature but are equally relevant to those of other faiths or beliefs.

We may, as relevant draw upon our Trust values too.

### Our Trust Values

 <p><b>DISCOVERY</b></p> <p>We want every learner to be curious and discover a love of learning, achieve, and aspire to be their best</p>	 <p><b>DIVERSITY</b></p> <p>We are an inclusive organisation where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We recognise, respect and value difference</p>	 <p><b>ENDEAVOUR</b></p> <p>We work hard and smart to achieve our aims and goals</p>	 <p><b>NAVIGATE</b></p> <p>We demonstrate ethical leadership and guidance at all levels and act with integrity</p>	 <p><b>RESILIENCE</b></p> <p>We adapt successfully to challenges and are optimistic</p>
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### Suggested Reflection

- a. *Let us come together at the end of another busy week, children, and grownups, in a moment of peace, let us sit very still, close our eyes, and enjoy the opportunity to feel relaxed together.*

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- b. *Imagine your mind is a screen, see yourself in your classroom, working hard at an activity, co-operating with others, sharing experiences, kindness, and learning. Feel good about this work, remember what was successful be thankful.*
- c. *Now think about our school's ethos "To **Aspire** to Achieve" and the values this instils in us - all of us striving to **achieve** the best we can, to do this with **Self-respect**, be **proud**, be **inspired**, be **resilient** in a space where we all have **equity**. How have we lived these values this week? What qualities do we need to develop to live them better still?*
- d. *Choose one to think about during next week.... Now open your eyes again.*



### **Useful sites**

Official and Parental Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools#introduction>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/281929/Collective\\_worship\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf)

### **Thoughts On Singing Assemblies**

<https://d3hgriq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f214e41ab1e4/content/pages/documents/1591786402.pdf>

### **Sources we may use for assembly purpose and content**

<https://assembliesforall.org.uk/about/>

<https://www.assemblies.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/primary-school-assemblies-collective-worship-ks1-ks2/zmsnm39>

<https://livingvalues.net/reference/being-a-school-of-excellence-the-role-of-the-school-assembly#:~:text=Reflection%20helps%20pupils%20focus%20upon,can%20value%20and%20build%20on.>

The following contains= insightful texts, prayers, and reflections for multi faith worship

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Childrens-Sabbath-Multifaith.pdf>

[https://www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/Inter\\_Faith\\_Week\\_Ideas\\_for\\_Primary\\_Schools\\_2018.pdf](https://www.interfaithweek.org/uploads/Inter_Faith_Week_Ideas_for_Primary_Schools_2018.pdf)