



Patterdale C of E Primary School

A loving family in a unique environment

Lifting our eyes to the hills, we are a happy school filled with love for our place and all people. We recognise and nurture the uniqueness of everyone.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

July 2024

Approved by	
Name:	
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	
Date:	Draft - awaiting Governor approval
Proposed review date²:	For Curriculum Committee meeting in Autumn Term 2026

Fun

Friendship

Adventurous

Trust

Unique

Creative

REVIEW SHEET

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	July 2024

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY FOR PATTERDALE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Legislation and Guidance

All maintained schools must provide daily Collective Worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

In community schools, Collective Worship must be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.

In Church schools, the requirement is instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed and should be distinctly Christian.

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.

Best practice in delivering Collective Worship requires it to be:

- **Inclusive:** so that is accessible and meaningful to all, whatever their faith or none.
- **Invitational:** so that there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’ just a warm offer to be present and engage with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** so that it motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Our Vision for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the most special time of each day at Patterdale C of E Primary School. It is the time when we gather together, pause and reflect as a whole school.

Collective Worship is an expression of our Vision and contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. It offers pupils the chance to understand that they are part of a loving community and that uniqueness is celebrated. It enables them to develop a deeper understanding of our school values: unique, creative, trust, adventurous, friendship and fun; to develop pupils as leaders; give pupils the chance to make themselves heard and celebrate success. It enables pupils and adults to develop spiritually, emotionally and socially, asking, reflecting on and answering big questions about meaning and our responsibilities as part of a global community including, ‘Who am I?’ ‘Why am I here?’ ‘How then shall I live?’.

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Worship and Spiritual Development

At our school, worship is **invitational**. All are *offered* the chance to worship daily, including through prayer and through song but it is not expected. Collective Worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs or convictions. It does not seek a uniform response from pupils or adults.

Through our Religious Education (RE) curriculum, our Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) curriculum, we support pupils in developing their own personal convictions. Our school offers pupils a safe space in which to explore their feelings, thoughts and beliefs. Every day, all members of our school community are taken to the threshold of worship. Whether or not to cross it is for the individual to decide.

Aims of Collective Worship

We aim to make every act of Collective Worship meaningful, engaging and relevant to those present, whether they choose to worship or not. As a Church of England school, our worship is distinctly Christian in nature.

At Patterdale, we ensure that everyone, whatever their faith or none, can take part in collective worship with integrity. For example, a Bible story illustrating Jesus' teachings (on loving one another, on caring for the vulnerable, on generosity or any other theme) will regularly be shared. The message of that Christian story is unpacked and made relevant to everyone in attendance so that all may be inspired by it.

Collective Worship sessions offer rich opportunities for teaching and encouraging reflection. At Patterdale we have the following aims for acts of Collective Worship:

- To offer pupil-centred sessions which either reflect pupils' experiences or appropriately expand and broaden them (content).
- To provide variety (in terms of content, the ways in which pupils are encouraged to interact, the use of music, puppets etc) to appeal to the preferences of as many pupils as possible.
- To afford pupils and adults space to reflect on the spiritual, acknowledging the capacity of our pupils to seek meaning beyond the material and physical.
- To allow time to respond to social and moral issues and the questions which relate to life as a global citizen.
- To provoke in those present a sense of meaning, wonder, joy and celebration or thanksgiving.
- To enable pupils and adults to explore the use of silence for stillness reflection, meditation, exploring inner thoughts and feelings and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these questions by people of faith.
- To develop an understanding of how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible are relevant to each of us, whatever our personal convictions.
- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.
- To enable the school community to explore a range of forms of worship and recognise the rich traditions of the Anglican church (locally, nationally and around the world).
- To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in a God of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To affirm the uniqueness and contribution of every individual.

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Collective Worship at Patterdale

At Patterdale we take the time to make our Collective Worship time special every day by:

- Creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship and/or reflection through this could be through the: use of music, a visual focus of images of the natural world to be in awe and wonder about, lighting of candles, use of our unique outdoor space.
- Careful and intentional timetabling so that Collective Worship time is not disrupted by other activities occurring on the school site and occurs at a time when pupils are most responsive.
- Every member of our school community is invited to join collective worship, including members of the Local Governing Body and parents/carers where appropriate (e.g. special events/services).
- Choosing themes and content which are appropriate to our school context, reflect our vision and are pitched appropriately for those present.
- Inspiring each member of our school community to reflect on their own behaviours and how they might make a change for their own sake or for the sake of others.
- Once a week holding our collective worship in St Patrick's church to which the wider community and parents/carers are invited, and is led by Reverend Andrew Calloway. Significant events such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter will also be celebrated in church with the community.
- Including music in order to develop our school community as respectful and global citizens and helping them to develop spirituality. (Music is chosen carefully to avoid asking pupils to declare a faith in God they may not have. Where lyrics declare a faith in God or a desire to worship, we will explain what the lyrics mean to those of Christian faith in order that all may decide, for themselves, whether to sing them).

The **whole school** comes together daily for an act of collective worship, usually lasting between 15-20 minutes.

We follow a values-based half termly plan for Collective Worship, focussing on each of our school values each half term. Other significant events and religious festivals are also planned in over the year. Half termly plans are produced each half term and shared with all staff who lead worship so that they can make the worship their own. Content for individual sessions is not prescribed, in order to allow for those leading to draw on topical or world events, personal experiences, situations which have arisen in the school or wider community. All teaching staff lead a collective worship each week on a rota and we have regular child led worship.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school and lead us in worship, for example NISCU, (who provide a weekly video worship as well as regular visits to school), and our Methodist minister Reverend Tim Cooke and his wife Tracey, who visit us monthly.

Our collective worships follow this format;

- **Gathering** – *Everyone will enter the CW with stimulation of the senses. This may be an image, artefact, music, sounds or scents. Candles will be lit to signify the start of worship.*
- **Engaging** – *This is the main content of the session. It will always contain reference to the Bible. It might be a story, role-play activity, powerpoint, video clip and might be delivered*

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by the teacher or a guest. It will usually follow the planned theme, but may also reference a current event or festival.

- **Responding** – *Everyone will be given time to reflect on what they have seen or heard. This may be prompted by reflection questions and may comprise of shared responses following group discussion or a period of thoughtful silence.*
- **Sending** – *Worship will conclude with a prayer and the candles will be extinguished. Music or singing may take place as pupils leave the worship space.*

Floor books are used to keep a record of some reflections and inputs from our collective worships.

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.

Parents have a right to **withdraw** their children from parts or all of collective worship. Parents do not need to give a reason for this.