



*Be watchful. Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be courageous. And let everything you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14*

## **Collective Worship Policy** **“Growing Together in God’s Love”**

### **Rationale**

At Pattishall C of E Primary School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be wholly or broadly of a Christian character, we base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Pattishall CE Primary School 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

### **Aims for Collective Worship**

- The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are;
- To provide an opportunity for the children and school community to worship God
- To enable the children and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable the children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

At Pattishall CE Primary School, collective worship is very important to our life and work as we offer the distinctive contribution of a Voluntary Controlled Church School. We provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship in contemporary and traditional Christian styles, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.



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## **Practicalities of Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching and invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher and other Senior Leaders conduct collective worship but usually on Mondays a member of the Methodist Ministry or Holy Cross Church leads. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between school and the local churches. We also invite in The Lighthouse Trust once a month.

Parents are invited to class collective worship and other special services eg at Harvest, Armistice, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. Any member of the community is invited to our Monday morning Collective Worship. This promotes the community spirit of the school. We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day. Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services: eg Armistice, Christingle, Education Sunday and end of year services in Holy Cross church.

## **Content**

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values we have chosen as a school.

These are; Respect, Co-operation, Courage, Perseverance, Thoughtfulness, Kindness and Love.

We consider these values through the actions of Think, Care, Seek, Build Respect and Love:

- Think – thinking before you act, thinking of others, thinking deeply.
- Care – being kind towards others. Caring for the environment and belongings.
- Seek – seeking God, success, forgiveness – persevering with courage.
- Build – building relationships, bridges (**co-operation**), neural pathways
- Respect – respecting other and doing everything in **love**



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We also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar. A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs/music used.

We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the children on a Friday. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised.

Once a week, we also have 'Songs of Praise' where the children worship through music and song.

### **Resources**

The Lion Storyteller Bible and The Lion Bible for Children are used as the regular source of Bible material to share with children. We also use Edward Carter's "Story Assemblies for the Whole Year" and "Roots and Fruits", tying them into our school values.

All are kept centrally in the staff resource area – The Head's office. Song words and powerpoints are kept electronically on the staff drive.

The use of resources and budget is reviewed annually by governors and Collective Worship Lead and provision then allocated as appropriate.

Useful websites to be used include;

[www.worshipworkshop.co.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.co.uk)

[www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk)

[www.imaginer.co.uk](http://www.imaginer.co.uk)

### **Evaluation, Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named governor/committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out/ pupil evaluation forms are reviewed etc. This governor liaises with the head teacher before reporting to governors on collective worship.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly, and we discuss this with parents at the time of admission. However any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.



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## **COVID-19**

Due to Covid-19, we are not permitted to gather in large groups or to sing, particularly indoors. During Lockdown 2020, we started using a virtual platform – Zoom – to connect with the children and families for a daily gathering with an act of worship.

This continues into the academic year 2020-2021. We are following our own school values and connecting them to metacognition – our main SDP thrust this year.

PowerPoints, music, books, pictures, Bible stories and prayers are all used to enhance the daily 'broadcast'. Interaction is limited at the moment, but each class will lead a Collective Worship through the year, to which their parents will be invited via Zoom.