

# Langdale Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

September 2025

**Inclusive** ❖ **Invitational** ❖ **Inspiring**

## 1. Background: 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’.<sup>1</sup>

In Church schools, the requirement is instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed. This means that every act of Collective Worship at Langdale Church of England Primary School is distinctively Christian.

Best practice in delivering Collective Worship<sup>2</sup> 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.

## 2. Collective Worship and Vision:

Collective Worship is the most special time of each day at Langdale Church of England Primary School. It is the time when we gather together, pause and reflect as whole school – or as a class - through collective prayer, bible stories and song.

Collective Worship is an expression of our Vision and contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. It offers pupils the chance to *aspire and become confident, lifelong learners in an ever-changing world whilst also enabling learners to collaborate with others allowing individual skills, talents, interests and beliefs to flourish*. 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?*’

## 2. Invitational Worship and Spiritual Development:

Our word ‘Worship’ comes from an Old English word meaning to acknowledge or attribute worth. If we choose to worship, we are acknowledging how and why God is worthy of praise and thanks. It is a personal experience which depends on an individual’s attitude. Worship which is directed by, or insisted upon, by someone else is not, in fact, worship.

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 and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, we strive to incorporate John 10:10 “Life in all its Fullness” into every avenue of our teaching and learning through Learning Beyond the Classroom. 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**.

## 3. How Collective Worship is made special:

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 use of music, a visual focus, artefacts and accessible, action-led prayer).
- 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.
- Ensuring every member of the school family is present. Pupils at this school are not withdrawn from Collective Worship for interventions or 'catch-up' time.
- 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.

#### 4. 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 predominantly Christian in nature.

However, at this school, we ensure that everyone, whatever their faith or none, can take part 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 this school, 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 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) and in the Cumbrian context, those of our Methodist, Salvation Army and United Reformed Church Ecumenical Partners.
- To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in a God of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

#### 5. Use of Music

The use of music at Langdale Church of England Primary School is very important. We use music which reflects our school's vision. Music plays an important part in developing our pupils as respectful and loving global citizens, and in helping them develop spiritually. We introduce our pupils to a diverse range of musical styles and genres to help

them find the music which is most helpful to them for reflection or worship. We also represent (through video, visits and experts) a diverse make-up of cultures and backgrounds to help our pupils to make sense of the rich global musical community and how music is used in worship across the globe.

Music is chosen carefully to avoid asking pupils to declare a faith in God they may not have. Some of our music contains elements which are confessional (they declare a faith in God or desire to worship). However, where such songs are used, we explain what the lyrics mean to Christians in order that pupils (and staff) may decide, for themselves, whether to sing them. We take the time to explain that some songs, sung by Christians, involve the artists singing to God. However, the words of such songs lend themselves to our school family choosing to sing to whomever they wish – God, a family member, a friend. Examples include our *Day-By-Day* prayer, *He's got the Whole World in His Hands* and *Calypso Carol*.

Some worship songs used are great for music-based learning opportunities (regardless of whether the lyrics are reflective of pupils' beliefs) and, as such, have great worth as a teaching tool. An example is, *Our God is a Great Big God*. Whether or not pupils agree with the sentiment of the lyrics, they can benefit greatly from the opportunity for teaching rhythm (semi-breve, minim, crochet, quaver). By using worship songs for more than just their lyrics, they are made **invitational** and relevant to all.

## 6. Organisation

An act of Collective Worship takes place daily<sup>1</sup> and usually lasts 20 minutes.

All Collective Worship will contain the following:

|   |                        |                                    |                                  |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Opening prayer         | Day-by-Day                         | Two children to lead             |
| 2 | Lighting of the candle | Lighting of the candle prayer      | One child to light the candle    |
| 3 | Singing                | Linking to our next Church service | All                              |
| 4 | Closing prayer         | Lord's Prayer - signing            | Two children to lead             |
| 5 | Blowing out the candle | -                                  | One child to blow out the candle |

Overview of daily Collective Worship focusses:

| Day       | Time  | Nature of Worship                | Leader                   |
|-----------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday    | 13:00 | Whole School: Value for the week | Assistant Headteacher    |
| Tuesday   | 13:00 | Whole School: Bible Story Focus  | Class Teacher            |
| Wednesday | 13:00 | Whole School: Clergy-led worship | Local Clergy             |
| Thursday  | 13:00 | Whole School: Singing Focus      | Class Collective Worship |
| Friday    | 15:00 | Whole school celebration         | Headteacher              |

The local Clergy play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship, on a weekly basis.

At the end of each half-term (in recognition of Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter and to say goodbye to our Year 6 Leavers, etc.), the whole school - and our family and community - visits the church for an act of worship led jointly by the pupils and the church.

## 7. Content

We follow a values-based yearly plan for Collective Worship (see below) focussing on one of our core Christian values each week.

| Week | School Christian Value | Note – Bible Story link                                                          |
|------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Compassion             | The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)                                              |
| 2    | Perseverance           | The Persistent Widow (Luke 18: 1-8)<br>Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6: 1-23) |

|   |                  |                                                                                    |
|---|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                  |                                                                                    |
| 3 | Aspiration       | Jesus Heals the Paralysed Man (Matthew 2: 1-12)                                    |
| 4 | Respect          | The Lost Son (Luke 15: 11-32)<br>Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19: 1-10)       |
| 5 | Trust            | Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8: 22-25)<br>Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6: 1-23) |
| 6 | Thankfulness     | Jesus Heals the 10 Lepers (Luke 17: 11-19)                                         |
| + | Christian Vision | To be applied in the context of each day's format/theme                            |

Content for individual sessions is not prescribed, in order to allow for those leading to draw on topical or world events, personal experiences and situations which have arisen in the school or wider community.

However, planning always includes:

- an explanation of how the current value helps us to live out our vision
- links to the Church year
- suggested relevant Bible stories
- reference to relevant world faiths/festivals/celebrations occurring
- relevant links with PSHE, SMSC and British Values or any other part of the school curriculum
- suggestions for activities or opportunities for children's participation through role play, drama, discussion, reflection stations, singing etc
- ideas for following up whole-school worship either in Key Stages or in the classroom
- suggestions for reflection stations relevant to the theme of the half term.

Crucially, our planning also reflects the input of the pupils *via opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings, opportunities to be part of our Bible stories (as characters and readers) and as key members for leading and modelling during the following daily acts:*

*Lighting the candle and leading (Lead) "We light this candle..." (ALL) "Because Jesus is the light of the world".*

*Pupils lead the Day-by-Day opening prayer.*

*Pupils lead the Lord's Prayer – with signing (adapted Makaton) as created by pupils.*

*The locations for our daily worship often change as we value 'the right **place**, for the right **learning**, at the right **time**'. In practice, this may mean that for a Bible Story Collective Worship we are in the Library or a reading area. It may also mean that we venture into the forest to create a meaningful setting etc. The staff aspire to create immersive Collective Worship experiences that match the meaning of "Life in all its Fullness" (John 10:10).*

## 8. Training

Any leader of worship at Langdale Church of England Primary School has access to training to support them in their role. In particular, through training, we ensure a consistent approach to the use of **inclusive** and **invitational** language in all sessions.

*Whole staff training takes place during school INSET sessions, usually with a specific focus, such as Spirituality. These sessions are led by a variety of people include the Collective Worship lead, the Religious Education Lead, local Clergy and governors. A collaborative approach is taken to embrace the skills, talents and knowledge of our school community and experts within it. The Collective Worship lead attends Diocesan training and then shares this with all staff through staff meetings. Specific examples of this are noted in staff meetings/INSET minutes alongside the Training and CPD file (located on the server).*

## 9. Visitors

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of Collective Worship. We are very grateful to those people in our local community who give their time to lead worship in our school. Pupils benefit greatly from the varied experiences they provide.

A copy of this policy, together with planning for the current half term is shared with all visitors who lead Collective Worship.

## 10. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship is monitored regularly, with encouraging feedback provided both formally and informally. Monitoring involves the whole school community. It is led by the Collective Worship lead and governors, who regularly join us for acts of Collective Worship, meet with members of staff and conduct pupil voice exercises.

The views of pupils are fed back to the staff – via the Headteacher and Collective Worship lead - and their views inform future planning and events.

## 11. Right of Withdrawal

Given the **inclusive** and **invitational** nature of our acts of Collective Worship outlined above, we hope that every parent or carer would wish their child to take part in this special part of the school day. However, parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. There is no requirement to explain or give reasons for a request of withdrawal. However, if this is something you are considering for your child, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will, of course, supervise any pupil withdrawn from Collective Worship and keep him or her safe. However, please be aware that we are unable to provide alternative teaching.

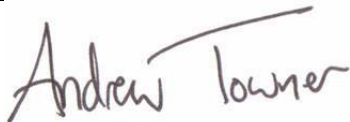
## 12. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

## 13. References

<sup>1</sup> [Education Reform Act 1988, section 7\(1\); DfE Circular 1/94 \(1994\).](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance Document: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring.](#)

|                                   |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date ratified:</b>             | 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                      |
| <b>Signature of Chair of DBE:</b> |  |
| <b>Review date:</b>               | <b>September 2026:</b> review to ensure consistent with the SIAMS Framework 2023    |
| <b>Next Review date:</b>          | <b>September 2026</b>                                                               |