



St Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy
September 2018

Collective Worship

Our Mission Statement

Jesus said: 'Love one another as I have loved you.' These words are at the heart of our school family.

Within our Catholic community, where prayer, liturgy and reflection are an important part of our daily life, the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness are shared with all.

As Catholic Christians, we are guided by the values of the Gospel and the beliefs of our own faith tradition. At the same time, we are respectful of the beliefs of others. We celebrate achievement in all aspects of school and home life - everyone is unique and a child of God.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with the Father, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer' said either by the teacher or everyone present does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our school.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church

- Those from other Christian traditions - or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Principles

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small and wherever possible help to personalise the experience ➤ Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

In our school, the daily act of *Collective Worship* takes place at the beginning of the school day. Usually the children gather in class groups, although occasionally classes will join together (in their Key Stages on Wednesday mornings). On a Monday this act of Worship is incorporated into the morning assembly.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned;

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Here I Am', significant dates and the wider curriculum. Scripture will be the focus of most acts of worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded

- Through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- Powerpoint presentations
- In a file on the computer in the hall.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

All paper resources - books, posters, are kept in the RE cupboard in the hall. Tapes and CDs are in the cupboard in the Hall alongside the music system.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion or reflect the season of the Liturgical year.

These Masses are a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. Mass is celebrated either in school or in St. Mary's church. The staff and children prepare the music, prayers and readings for these celebrations.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

This role will be undertaken by the R.E. co-ordinator for the school.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship and is to be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and Governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Signed:

Chair of Committee:

Review date: September 2020