



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed By: Local Governing Body

This Policy was ratified in: May 2021 It will be reviewed in: May 2023

Our Mission Statement

As God's family we nurture and inspire our children by broadening their horizons as they learn. Through rich and varied experiences, we enable them to be a loving and caring influence on our world.

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1. Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head of School.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

2. The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

3. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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.

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.

4. 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 to 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 prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

5. Principles of Collective Worship

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;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.¹

Children will be encouraged to participate fully in the Liturgical life of the school in various ways:

- Individually, as a group or whole school
- Acts of Worship led by the Head of School, or members of staff
- Whole School Liturgy celebrating Liturgical feasts led by individual classes
- Class prayers led by the teacher or children
- Class Act of worship led by teacher or children
- Inviting guest speakers to join in acts of worship e.g. CAFOD, Food bank.
- Through Stories/Role play/Art
- Prayer Assembly
- Hymn Practise Assembly
- Celebration Assembly - Children's achievements

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- occasionally recorded (for classes to view at different times)
- monitored
- evaluated

Whole school collective worship/Assembly

- Monday - Gospel
- Tuesday - Class Assembly
- Wednesday - Hymn Practise
- Thursday – Prayer/Class Assembly (led by the pupils)
- Friday - Celebration (Children's achievements, attendance)

Half termly Mass in the School Hall or at St. Nicholas Church

Weekly Mass at St Nicholas RC church –attended by one class each week on a rota basis

6. Resources

Each class has its own prayer area displaying children's prayers, bibles, candles, crucifix, etc.

7. Worship and Retreats

Ignite Mission invited to school for whole school singing, Mass, First Holy Communion prep day, Mini Vinnies retreat, Walsingham Pilgrimage.

8. Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the Children's Bible and Children's Liturgies as a basis for our practice

Children are introduced to prayers, sacrament and the Eucharist in a step by step approach in accordance with RE curriculum.

9. The Role of the Subject Leader for Collective Worships

The Subject Leader for Collective Worship is Mrs. Ewa Parker. The role of the Subject Leader for Collective Worship includes the responsibilities described below.

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

9.1 Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Head of School to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the Head of School of standards and developments in Collective Worship

9.2 Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and Head of School regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

9.3 Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

9.4 Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

10. Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Subject Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the staff and governors **every two years.**