

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy



POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Mission Statement

The aim of our school is:

To create a loving Catholic environment which will help each individual member of the school family grow morally, spiritually and academically in the love of Jesus Christ.

This means we aim to meet our children's needs in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ that God loves us all. This is found in the life of the school through:

- The quality of relationships based on love, care, respect and trust.
- Prayer, reflection and celebration
- Learning and teaching that enables children to reach their full potential.
- Partnership between home, school and parish.

LIVING AND LEARNING IN FAITH

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 Godself, 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 children. (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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our Lady's School.

Worship in Our Lady's School is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide for all children 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 positive attitudes.
- To participate fully
- To take time out "to wonder at", "to come to terms with" and "to give worth to"
- To embrace the needs and concerns of the school community, local community and to develop a global awareness.
- To present the Good News and promote Gospel values.

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 short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Take place in a prayerful, peaceful atmosphere, conducive to reflection and enhanced by silence, music and visual/audio aids.

Organisation of Collective Worship in our school

- Class groups pray together in the morning, before/after meals and at the end of the day except when involved in another act of worship
- Early Years/ Key Stage 1 pray together at weekly assemblies.
- Key Stage 2 pray together at weekly assemblies and before hymn practice.
- Whole school pray together at weekly assemblies.

Acts of worship may be led by:

- Head teacher/Deputy Head Teacher
- Class Teacher
- An individual class
- Priest

In addition:

Whole school Masses are celebrated on holy days or at other significant times in the school and liturgical year e.g. beginning/end of school year, Advent, Lent.

KS2 classes generally each prepare and celebrate at least two liturgies, including a class Mass, and two collective acts of worship per year.

Early Years/KS1 generally come together to prepare and celebrate three liturgies per year. Each class prepares at least one collective act of worship per year. They may also celebrate their own class liturgy if they wish.

Opportunities for voluntary worship are offered at particular times e.g. Advent and Lent.

Celebration Masses for children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist take place regularly throughout the year in the parish.

Year 6 participate in a retreat day each year.

Year 4 have the opportunity to participate in a three day residential retreat at Savio House.

Year 3 have a retreat day as part of their Sacramental Programme.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- With reference to the liturgical seasons, the topics studied in the Religious Education programme "The Way, The Truth and The Life" and the school curriculum
- With Scripture as the focus in most acts of worship
- In consultation with the appropriate parties and reference to school policies and aims.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in children skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than participating or contributing in a token way.
- In consultation with the Religious Education subject leader.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded on a liturgy planner to keep notes of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education subject leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors - in particular the Foundation Governors- every two years.