

Collective Worship Policy



St. Mary's RC Primary School

Mission Statement

- We will always open our doors wide in welcome.
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us.
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our School.
- We will always worship God our Father.
- We will always be witnesses to Jesus Christ by following in his footsteps.

Written by: Jason Crompton

Date written: September 2020

Approved by governors on: October 2020

Policy will be reviewed: Every two years

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.

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.

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.'

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;
- 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. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated
- differentiated (Upper KS2 using Laudato Si approach and planning form)

Organisation

Collective Worship is organised in each separate class within school. It is suitable to the age range and abilities of the children within that class. Collective Worship will take place at least once a week in each class and will be linked to the unit of work being studied at this particular time or the liturgical calendar. Collective Worship is in addition to shared class masses and whole school liturgical celebrations. Collective Worship may take place as a pupil led activity or an activity led by the lay chaplain assisted by the pupil chaplains.

Resources

- *Collective Worship box*
- *Candles*
- *Books*
- *Cloths*
- *CDs*
- *Figures*
- *Pictures*
- *Year of the Word books*

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. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.