



St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

Collective Worship Policy



**Guided by Jesus' love and example, we use our gifts
to grow, pray and learn as a community;
united in faith.**

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11

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.

A daily act of worship for all pupils is a legal requirement. 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. Prayer and Liturgy are words more commonly used in our context.

Our school prayer was written by children and we say this prayer at the beginning of staff meetings, governor meetings, in classrooms and when we gather as a school in prayer.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, however given the importance of Collective Worship, it may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. 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. Acts of worship may occur in and outside the school building e.g. within the school grounds, parish hall or in Church.

Collective Worship is well planned, adequately resourced, recorded, monitored and evaluated in order to ensure that the Collective Worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and makes a positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school should 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;
- 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

Wherever possible Acts of worship are:

- Varied in size, space, location and prayer form to engage children in their faith in varying ways
- Short and appropriately paced
- Simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Collective worship in our school will:

- Follow the structure (Gather, The Word, Respond, Mission)
- Is linked to the Liturgical Year, Come and See or other significant event.
- Scripture is the key focus in most acts of worship. Scripture guides and shapes every other aspect of liturgy
- Develops pupils' skills which enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- Be tailored to meet the spiritual needs within the school and the wider community

Timetable for Collective Worship

Eucharist

The celebration of the Eucharist is central to our Catholic Life and Collective Worship. In addition to Mass for specific feast days, it is celebrated in school to highlight special occasions. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate in the will be maximised.

Yearly Overview: This is outlined as part of the yearly Task Planner, which is expanded in the Calendar of Events and the 'Church Year' schedule.

Weekly Timetable:

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Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	BISHOP'S THEMES				
Focus	DIOCESAN WORD OF THE WEEK	VIRTUES TO LIVE BY CLASS-LED LITURGIES	CLASS-LED LITURGIES	Gather and Praise (sing)	
Organisation	Gather & Pray Leadership led Whole school Lunchtime Prayer groups for KS1/KS2 led by School Chaplain	Whole school or Key Stages Class led		Whole school or Key Stages	Gather & Celebrate OR Class led Come & See Whole school
All classes participate in daily prayers throughout the day. All classes timetable sessions for Collective Worship preparation in line with the overview. CW Leader will co-ordinate joint preparation of whole school collaborations.					

Resources

The provision of resources for Collective Worship is reviewed by the Collective Worship Leader. Each class has a liturgy box containing a variety of resources for collective worship, including coloured cloths to reflect the Liturgical Season of the Church. In KS1, each child has access to a children's Bible. In KS2 class sets of Good News Bibles are available. A variety of Liturgy books are easily accessible in the Leadership Room for all staff. In addition, the vestments and requirements for Mass are stored in the Hub.

All resources provided by the SRSCMAT Lead Lay Chaplain are shared with staff and staff are also signposted and in receipt of links to resources shared by NDCYS and NRCDES.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The Chaplaincy Team meet weekly to pray, prepare Key Stage or Whole School Liturgies, prepare Bible stories to share with the younger children and evaluate prayer focus areas around the school.

The Year 6 children make an annual retreat to NDCYS The Briars, in the last term. It is an opportunity to reflect on their own spiritual journey and look forward to Key Stage 3 and its challenges.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in individual class and whole liturgy folders. These are personalised by each class with a favourite/personal class scripture quote. The folders include NCDYS Liturgy planners which keep a record of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources. Classroom displays, Prayer Journals and Pupil Books are also collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc. Every child will have the opportunity to plan a liturgy in their class.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship are monitored and evaluated regularly by SLT, the children, parents and Governors.

Consideration as to whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship are taken into account, as well as pupil engagement, leadership, spiritual impact, behaviour and response.

All children have the opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship. This takes the form of a discussion based on *celebration and growth* discussion. Areas for developments are actioned in order to continue to develop and enhance the quality of liturgical experiences.

Collective Worship Leader will monitor evaluations and give feedback to staff within RE CPD sessions.

Acts of Worship are frequently celebrated within the school and wider community through the use of Twitter, Tapestry and @SJF #ourcatholiclife board.

CPD

A CPD calendar regarding Collective Worship for children, staff and Governors organised each academic year in light of school evaluation outcomes. CPD is primarily led by the Collective Worship Leader whose responsibility it is to upskill and ensure children and staff are confident and knowledgeable in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. Trust Lead Lay Chaplain also support with this task.

The Chaplaincy Team will also receive training during their sessions. These children also monitor the quality and opportunity for prayer and reflection of classroom displays.

Parish Links

Close links to English Martyrs parish are fostered through various shared Masses and Liturgies at the Church throughout the year, which are set out in the Task Planner the and 'Church Year' schedule. Parishioners are also warmly welcomed to join staff and children from Masses and Liturgies in school throughout the year.

Policy review

This policy is reviewed every three years by the RE Subject Leader and the Head Teacher. The scheduled review date for this policy is July 2023.

Signed by:

Angelina Brett

May 2021

Headteacher

Date:

Patricia Hurd

May 2021

Chair of Directors

Date: