

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

"Loving and Learning Together as Jesus taught us"



Collective Worship Policy

Date of policy review: January 2023

Next review: January 2024

Policy Passed by the Governors

Key Person Responsible: Maureen Kelly

St Catherine's Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Mission

Loving and Learning together as Jesus taught us

Our Vision

Our school will provide a loving, secure and stimulating learning environment, where everyone will grow in their faith journey and be inspired to be the best person they can be.

Our Aims

- To value and encourage the whole school community to develop their God given potential
- To nurture and support each child in their faith journey as a worshipping community
- To promote and encourage the individuality of all, respecting ethnicity, attainment, age gender, disability and background.
- To provide a learning environment and curriculum that is safe, stimulating, creative and challenging
- To create a partnership involving school, home and parish and the wider community
- To help each child develop a positive self-image with a healthy lifestyle to become confident individuals who will contribute to society
- To instil a lifelong love of learning

Our Values

Love :- we show compassion towards each other

Faith :- we place our confidence, belief and trust in God

Integrity:- we strive to be honest and truthful in what we say and do

Diversity:- we recognise that each individual is unique

Excellence:- we achieve our best in all that we do

Collective Worship in our Catholic School

Worship is at the heart of St. Catherine's and 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 made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge for the requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils:

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.” The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

All acts of worship are consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes). Each act of collective worship will include a period of reflection.

Definitions

Prayer

One of the Early Fathers of the Church, St. John Damascene, described prayer as “..... the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.”

The catechism of the Catholic Church identifies the following forms of prayer.

- Blessing and adoration – prayer which blesses God for the goodness which has been shown to us.
- Petition – prayer which asks for forgiveness and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.
- Intercession – asking on behalf of another.
- Thanksgiving – acknowledging the gifts God has given us.
- Praise – the prayer which simply praises God.

Prayer is not confined to an act of worship. Children pray in the morning, at lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

Liturgy

“Liturgy” literally means, “work of the people”, and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action.

Liturgy involves word and gesture, silence and stillness. All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. Not all worship is liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.

Assembly

Assembly is the experience of gathering in school. It may or may not include an act of worship.

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
- 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 community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and enable us:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To unite our worshipping community
- To strengthen our common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To develop the skills of prayer
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- To provide opportunities for pupils to discover the value of meditation and silence

Implementation

All acts of worship in this school will:

- Give glory and praise to God
- Be a quality activity fundamentally to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children a positive liturgical experience appropriate to age in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all
- Include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and a variety of settings
- Be short and appropriately paced

Planning

Worship is planned with reference to the Church's seasons, the themes in "The Way, the Truth and the Life" and significant dates. Pupils will have opportunities to prepare, organise and lead worship. Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship. The RE Subject Leader will ensure resources are circulated to all class teachers and the Leadership Team weekly.

Organisation

On days when classes attend an assembly in the hall, the act of worship can be an integral part of the assembly. If it is not, and on days when classes are not attending an assembly, the collective act of worship is held in the classroom.

Yr 1 to Yr 6 Collective Worship – Gospel Assembly Monday on Teams.

EYFS Collective worship in the classroom every day- this is timetabled.

KS1 Collective worship in the classroom: Tuesday and Thursday – this is timetabled.
Collective worship on in the hall: Wednesday and Friday

KS2 Collective worship in the classroom: Tuesday and Thursday – this is timetabled.
Collective worship on in the hall: Wednesday and Friday

Format

Liturgy in this school will follow the pattern or, a variation of the following:

- *Gathering* – How we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet, reflective music, lighted candles, sign of the cross, prayer table etc.)
- *Word* – A reading from the scriptures (or other suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme
- *Action* – A ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures, such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc.)
- *Mission* – The sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

At Key Stage 1 worship will be about 5 minutes and will include:

- Short, simple liturgy with ritual and variety
- Power points related to Margaret Carswell units prepared by RE Subject Leader
- Liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or Liturgy of the Word
- Power point linked to the Diocesan resources

At Key Stage 2 worship will be between 7-10 minutes and will include:

- Short, simple liturgy with ritual and variety
- Liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer or the Communion Rite
- The celebration of sacramental liturgies Power point linked to the Diocesan resources
- Power points related to Margaret Carswell units prepared by RE Subject Leader
- Power point linked to the Diocesan resources

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 and opportunities for children to participate will be maximized. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. Masses, both school and class, will be planned at a termly planning meeting with both of our parish priests.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the R.E. Subject Leader and the Headteacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

The following will be monitored in order to evaluate whether pupils are making good progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

- Time set aside for collective worship;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aides etc;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teaching of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship.

Right of Withdrawal

In law parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship but non-Catholic parents are made aware that worship is central to the life of the school and both formal and spontaneous acts of worship take place in a variety of contexts.

Resources Available

All classrooms have a prayer focus with drapes of the relevant liturgical colour. There are a number of crucifixes, statues and icons in school so that the prayer focus can be changed regularly. Bibles, prayer books and candles are also available. All resources are stored in a wicker basket in each classroom. There is also wide selection of RE boxes which includes other faiths. This is stored on the main stage.