

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Policy Statement for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

By working together at St Mary's CVA we aim through Jesus Christ to share God's love, helping our community to learn, grow and make a difference.

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 relationship, 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:

1. 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.
2. 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 headteacher.

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 - or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

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 aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To explore their own beliefs and develop spirituality
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- 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
- 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 kept small wherever possible or appropriate, to help to personalise the experience.
- Be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.* 5-6 minutes for Key Stage One and 7-10 minutes for Key Stage Two.)
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

**Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9*

Timetable for Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Mary's takes place for the whole school on Friday mornings based on each year group's Gospel Value and Come and See. Each class is responsible for leading 2 or 3 Acts of Worship throughout the school year. Class prayers and meditation take place each day.

Monday - Whole School Celebration

Tuesday- Key Stage Assembly/ Child led Class Liturgies including hymns

Wednesday - Child led Class Liturgies

Thursday - Key Stage Assembly/ Child led Class Liturgies including hymns

Friday - Class Act of Worship for whole school

There are masses or virtual Spiritual Communion Masses every Monday on a rota system for Year groups (Mass) and Classes (Spiritual Communion).

A Welcome Mass at St Mary's Church takes place on a Sunday at the beginning of the school year. We welcome FS2 children and their parents into our school and Church Community. Each child is given a Presentation Folder which is blessed.

A Leavers Mass at St Mary's Church takes place in the last half term of the school year to say farewell to our Y6 children. Their presentation folders are brought along and it is a celebration of their time at St Mary's School.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to their Gospel Value, links made to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- To develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To give the whole school a mission and suggestions of ways to act out the Gospel Value.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Through display books.
- After a Friday Whole School Class Liturgy the class who led the liturgy prepares a page to highlight the key messages, photos and quotes from the Act of Worship. Then they will create a second page to contain feedback from their partner class and a summary of ways the mission has been acted out over the week using evidence of what they have witnessed other children doing. Each class will also complete a summary of how the mission was lived out and this will be kept in their own Class liturgy folder.
- Phase folders for Key Stage Acts of Worship led by teachers. After an KS1 AOW teachers fill in an assessment form using feedback from the children. For a KS2 liturgy, the Chaplaincy Team have a rota for evaluating them and will also complete a form.

- Liturgies in Class - Children in class to give 2 stars and a wish feedback to the group who led the class liturgy. The planning sheets and the feedback to be kept in A3 Class liturgy book. Next group to lead look back at previous evaluations.
- Photographs can be shared via Class Dojo and some highlights may go on the website.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Chaplaincy team are involved in evaluating weekly Teacher Led Liturgies in KS2 and will support their class when evaluating a Friday Whole School Class Liturgy.

The School's Chaplains will check termly the school's provision of worship, to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Phases keep their own age appropriate Bibles in class and other resources are being purchased and stored in phase store rooms.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage (as far as this is compatible with our commitments to care, and as far as this is compatible with our cohesive community). The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharist 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. In school, therefore, the **'Liturgy of the Word'** rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At Key Stage One worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word.

At Key Stage Two worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharist Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the *Collective Worship Coordinator* and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and *Governors* every two years. The *Foundation Governors* in particular will play a most important role.

Date of Policy: **October 2021**

Date of next review **October 2024**