

# **St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery**

## **Policy Statement for Collective Worship**

### **Mission Statement**

By working together at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery 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 worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single Celebration of the word for all pupils, or 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.

Collective 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 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 clear and concise using the agreed Diocesan structure to personalise the experience.
- Be appropriately paced
- 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 daily. Each class is responsible for leading 2 Celebrations of the word throughout the school year. Class prayers and meditation take place each day.

Monday - Whole School Celebration

Tuesday - Key Stage Celebration of the word

Wednesday - Hymn Practise

Thursday - Pupil led Class Celebrations of the word

Friday - Class Worship for whole school

There are masses held at significant points in the year, Foundation Stage attend the mass when ready but always join the end of the school year Mass.

A Welcome Mass at St Mary's Church takes place on a Sunday in the first half term 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 celebrate 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 the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all Celebrations of the word.
- To develop in pupils knowledge and skills that enable them to prepare, organise, lead and evaluate 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, putting their faith into action.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Through display floor books.
- After a Friday Whole School Class Worship the class who led the liturgy prepares a page to highlight the key messages, photos and quotes from the Celebration of the word. 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 worship folder.
- Key Stage Worship led by the Lay Chaplain, teachers and the Chaplaincy Team. The Chaplaincy Team have a rota for evaluating them and will also complete an evaluation form.
- Worship in Class - Children in KS1 classes give 2 stars and a wish feedback to the group who led the class worship, whilst KS2 pupils use a more detailed feedback form. The planning sheets and the feedback to be kept in A3 Class floor 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 worship. The School's Lay Chaplain 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 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. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharist celebration as other types of 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**' rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

## **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 will have a crucial role to play.

**Date of Policy:** **October 2021**

**Date of next review** **October 2026\***

**\*However, this may be reviewed sooner in light of the pending Prayer and Liturgy Directory.**