



SS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

'Learning Together, Achieving Together in Christ'

Collective Worship Policy

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SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

'Learning Together, Achieving Together in Christ'

Introduction

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable our school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

Collective Worship in a Catholic school acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our schools are shaped and sustained.

Sacramental aspects of the Church's liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, are intrinsically woven into the fabric of SS Peter and Paul's Catholic identity. We prepare a yearly calendar for participation in Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies such as Adoration, and the opportunity for pupils and staff to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER DOCUMENTATION

This policy cannot be used in isolation. As religious education links to every aspect of school life all policies and some national documents must be considered but in particular;

- Religious Education Policy
- SEN Policy
- School Behaviour Policy
- 1944 Education Act (sections 27, 118 and 114)
- General Catholic Directory
- Levels of Attainment in Religious Education in Catholic Schools and Colleges
- Diocesan Policy for Education in Human Love

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

¹ Christ at the Centre Marcus Stock, 2005

² Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

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 SS Peter and Paul School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship considers 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.

Worship in SS Peter and Paul 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 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
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and cultural backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.³ 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 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Timetable for Collective Worship

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1 – 3 Phase	9.05 – 9.20am Whole School collective worship	Class Collective Worship	9.05 – 9.30am	9.05am – 9.20am Year 1 – 3 Phase Assembly (Alternate Weeks*)	9.05 – 9.20am
Year 4 – 6 Phase	Led by Headteacher (AHT/RE Leader in their absence)	Class Collective Worship	Whole School Hymn Practice	9.05 – 9.20am Year 4 – 6 Phase Assembly (Alternate Weeks*)	Whole School Celebration Assembly

* When there isn't a phase assembly, teachers will organise a class collective worship.

On occasions, there may be days where there is no assembly. In these instances, the class teachers organise collective worship which will generally occur within classrooms.

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 most 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.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- Proclaim – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible.
- Response – the response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Eucharist

A calendar for the school year is organised to celebrate the Eucharist. Children from Year 3 – 6 will plan and undertake roles within Masses. We gather as a school community to share the Eucharist on Holy Days or special feast days e.g. the feast of SS Peter and Paul. Other special occasions are also celebrated e.g. Year 3 prepare a special Mass after they have made their

First Eucharist which gives the school community the opportunity to come together to celebrate this special sacrament with them.

Year groups also visit the church once a term to participate in celebrating the Eucharist.

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.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the RE Leader, SLT and governors 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

Teacher resources, assembly books, assembly plans are located in the PPA room. In each classroom, the children have access to a range of resources including:

- Cloths in the colours of the Liturgical year
- Candles
- A variety of objects and artefacts e.g. stones, shells, statues

Inclusion

Our commitment to Christ's ministry and the uniqueness of each individual, leaves Catholic schools ideally placed to respond with imagination and sensitivity to those children with SEND. Essential to this task will be the respect and dignity for the gifts of each individual and a positive response to their needs.

Each member of our school community takes seriously the variety of ways and stages along which God accompanies individuals, so that they may discover truths about God. Cultural background and faith differences within the wider community, but especially if found within school, provides a rich source of learning materials for this at every level: social, emotional and intuitive and therefore should be highly prized.

Teachers have high expectations and provide opportunities for all pupils to develop and participate in collective worship, supporting children to access worship to develop their spiritual connection with God.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

RE Leader

The RE Leader is also the co-ordinator for collective worship.

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils

- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

The RE Leader is also responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. This task involves:

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

The RE Leader will also:

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Lead and organise in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back
- Report to and consult with the governors and Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Act as consultant to colleagues
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaise with the parish priest
- Liaise with other school RE leaders at termly, Deanery meetings
- Liaise with the Diocese Education Commission
- Evaluate existing resources and purchase new ones when required. This might include: visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

Governors

The governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils are encouraged and supported in the development of a spiritual relationship with God
- Ensuring, after consultation with the Headteacher, for appropriate arrangements to be made for collective worship to take place
- Ensuring that the acts of worship support the teaching and ethos of the Catholic Church

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the spiritual development of pupils is carefully planned by all staff in a sensitive manner, allowing for each individual's needs
- Formulating a policy for collective worship in consultation with members of the school community
- For monitoring the policy and instigating reviews when appropriate.
- Working particularly closely with the R.E. and Music Leaders in the practical arrangements for assemblies and liturgies
- Sharing the collective responsibilities of all staff

Class Teachers

Class teachers are responsible for:

- Giving time and consideration to the development of spirituality and encourage pupils to develop their own special relationship with God
- Ensuring that class-based acts of worship are carried out in accordance with school policy
- Ensuring that a focus corner is maintained in class which will support the development of spirituality and the regular practice of worship
- Making appropriate links with the "Come and See" programme being followed, in particular during the Reveal and Respond aspects of topics
- Sharing the collective responsibilities of all staff as given below

All Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Upholding the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith
- Upholding the ethos of the school
- Role modelling to the pupils, the highest of expectations during Worship and prayer
- Encouraging pupils to develop a personal spiritual life, based on a special relationship with God, through the example of Jesus Christ
- Being ready to value moments of informal prayer whenever opportunities arise
- Supporting parents and parish communities in their work to prepare pupils for the first sacraments

Parents

Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting their children by helping them to further develop their spiritual and sacramental lives at home
- Ensuring that their families regularly practice their faith
- Working in partnership with the school and parish communities
- Helping their children to know and value the traditional prayers of the church as appropriate to their age and stage of development

Pupils

Pupils are responsible for:

- Recognising God's love all around them and to build up a personal relationship through prayer
- Recognising and employing the many different ways in which we can worship God both collectively and individually

The Leader for Collective Worship

The leader for RE and Collective Worship is Nick Stopps

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Leader, together with the RE Link governor and Headteacher 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.

Reviewed: March 2022

Next Review: March 2024 (Or in line with the new Directory for Collective Worship when this is released)