



Work, play, pray - together!

St Mary's R.C Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



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This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. (Archbishop Oscar Romero)

St. Mary's - a welcoming school family
Travel with us through our life journey.
Making a difference!

Always treating others the way you
would want to be treated - respect for
all!

Rooted in Christ

You belong

Striving for excellence.

Reaching full potential

Coming together as a community

'Living a life worthy of God's calling ... with humility, gentleness, patience and love' (Ephesians 4)

St. Mary's RC Primary School

Code of Conduct

Golden Rules

Our most important Golden Rule is:-

“Do to others what you would have them do to you.” –

Matthew 7:12

We are kind and helpful – we don't hurt anybody's feelings

We are gentle – We don't hurt others

We listen – We don't interrupt

We work hard – We don't waste our own or others' time.

We are honest – We don't cover up the truth.

We look after property – We don't waste or damage things.

These Golden Rules are the moral values which underpin all the choices and decisions made by all in school.

The Nature of Collective Worship

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

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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 will 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Mary's RC School

Worship 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St Mary's RC School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 St Mary's RC School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can 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.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Collective Worship in St Mary's RC School takes place as follows:

Monday: All staff attends morning worship as part of our staff briefing

Whole School Collective Worship Monday

Wednesday: Hymn practice

Friday: Whole School Celebration Assembly

Daily prayers are shared in every class.

Every class celebrates a termly act of Collective Worship, either as a Liturgy, a year group Mass or a class Mass, according to the timetable.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Whole School Liturgies take place throughout the year. (Eg Welcome Liturgy, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Advent, etc.)

Every other Friday each class hold their own class planned liturgy.

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, Mrs Graham, Mrs Tumelty and Mrs Colley will plan and lead collective worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in each class' prayer journal, using the planning templates and the respond booklets. Collective Worship is recorded in the Collective worship folder. Each year group is to record details of Collective Worship and provide evidence of Collective Worship to show pupil participation to show progression.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

All RE resources can be found in the RE resource section in our library. Each class has a box of resources with materials, candles, crosses and resources to be used during liturgies to use throughout the year.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

Staff attend retreats from the diocesan programme, Year 4 also attend a class retreat. An area for quiet prayer and reflection is set up in the main hall and is used voluntarily by the children. Opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross are presented around the school at various points of the year. (I.e advent, lent and the year of Oscar Romero)

Other opportunities

Children have the opportunity to go to Mass at certain points in the year. (e.g advent, Easter, end of year Mass) Children may also visit a synagogue or Mosque for world religion week.

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, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The senior leadership team Co-ordinate together for collective worship.

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.

Review Date: March 2017

Next Review Date: March 2019

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- **Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship**
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development

- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]