



St. Mary & St. Andrew's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Mission Statement

*We are guided by God who is at the centre of everything we do.
We support each other to be the best we can be to secure bright futures for everyone.
With our parishes, families and the community, we work together to create a school that is safe,
happy, respectful and inspirational.*

Our school prayer;

*Guide us O God, to be the best we can be,
In every thought,
In every word
And in every deed.
Amen*

This policy reflects the school's values and philosophy in relation to Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship. It is intended for all teaching staff and governors and is available to parents.

INTRODUCTION

At St. Mary & St. Andrew's Catholic Primary school, prayer and worship is so much more than the statutory requirement of the 1988 Religious Education Act, which states that "there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils". For our school, prayer and worship are at the centre. It is essential to our daily lives as we strive to grow together as a Christian community, in which each individual is supported and nurtured to develop their full, spiritual potential.

Opportunities for prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations are based on our Catholic tradition. We recognise that faith development is a life-long journey and at all times, staff are sensitive and respectful to the needs of all pupils including:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in the Church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of the Church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those from no faith background

In proclaiming the Gospel message, we endeavour to share the Gospel spirit of love in all that we do by providing a warm, family atmosphere, fiercely promoting the dignity of all our school family and ensuring all children feel, 'safe, happy, respected and inspired'.

Collective worship, prayer and liturgy undoubtedly takes inspiration from the liturgical year, the RE curriculum, our life experiences and our school values.

Our six key school values – based on Gospel values and closely aligned with the Beatitudes – are present in all we think, do and say. Each half term, we focus on one strand and help our children understand their meaning and how to apply these values in their own lives. This is driven through our Collective Worship.

Be appreciative

Be forgiving

Be loving

Be generous

Be honest

Be bold

THE INTENT OF OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Through our daily Acts of Collective Worship we aim to:

- ensure that Christ is at the centre of everything we do
- promote the teachings of Christ and the liturgical traditions of the Catholic Church
- share and reflect on the Word of God
- encourage and foster a relationship with Jesus
- explore, reflect upon and celebrate Gospel values
- provide opportunities for all members of our school community to form a personal response to those values, where they feel included, valued, listened to and able to contribute, to the best of their ability
- support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the individual
- provide opportunities for pupils to explore and reflect upon their own feelings, emotions, experiences and beliefs
- involve pupils with the preparation of and active and reverent participation in, prayer, worship and liturgy

- give value to the opportunities to take time out and wonder at, come to terms with and celebrate, through prayerful reflection
- develop a sense of belonging to our school and parish communities, in the Spirit of Christ
- develop a sense of belonging to our global family, increasing awareness of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and to be concerned for others and our world

It is important that Collective Worship in school takes the following into consideration:

- That it is inclusive, enabling every pupil to experience, engage and participate as appropriate, regardless of their age, gender, ability, social, cultural and religious background, faith
- It is open to pupils and their families of all faiths and none and is sensitive and respectful to the needs of those of other faith traditions and none
- It is age appropriate and meets the needs of all children. As a guide, Collective Worship lasts for about one minute for each year of the child's life i.e. approximately five minutes for Reception age children
- Provision for Collective Worship sensitively supports SEND children, enabling them to experience, participate in and develop their understanding, in an appropriate, positive and prayerful way
- That Collective Worship can evoke a range of emotional responses in both pupils and staff and that these are respected and supported, as appropriate.

It should also be noted that parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of it 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 IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is deeply rooted in community. It creates a deep sense of belonging for all involved and is an occasion to celebrate, support, collaborate and unite with our local, parish, diocesan, national and global family.

At school, pupils are introduced to a diversity of experiences of worship including;

- Daily prayer throughout the day e.g. morning, lunchtime and home time prayers
- Whole school assemblies, both staff and child led
- Class worship, both staff and child led
- Whole school masses, celebration of the Eucharistic
- Non eucharistic liturgical services e.g. Ash Wednesday, Advent liturgy, Stations of the Cross
- Sacrament of reconciliation

Through daily prayer and acts of Collective Worship, children gather with staff for a time of peace and calm and are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer including;

- Traditional prayers Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father
- Praying the psalms “I thank you for the wonder of my being” (Psalm 139)
- Repetitive prayer (mantra) “Jesus, I love you and thank you”, repeated several times, slowly
- Meditation Scripture reflection with use of imagination
- Bodily prayer raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting, mime
- Prayer of the heart stillness to listen to God “Be still and know that I am God”
- Contemplation looking at trees, a sunset, an icon, work done in a topic
- Gestures the sign of the cross, the sign of peace
- Hymns traditional and modern hymns
- Music listening to quiet, reflective music
- Litanies For all Creation: Thanks be to God
- Processions Gospel procession with sung ‘alleluia’
- Prayer services and liturgies formal and spontaneous prayer using holy water, candles
- Celebrations prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work
- Use of visuals images, art, banners, displays, flowers, candles
- Mass Whole school Mass with our personal, school and parish family

As well as daily prayers, all children and teaching staff participate in a daily Act of Collective Worship.

On Monday and Fridays, this takes place as a whole school community and is led by the Head Teacher. On Fridays, parents are invited to our Collective Worship, which is followed by celebration of the week’s good work/achievements.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, prayer and liturgy takes place in class and is the responsibility of the class teacher. On Tuesdays, EYFS and KS1 gather to celebrate collective worship together, led by the class teachers. In KS2, teachers lead and model at least one, with children encouraged to plan and lead on the other days, in ways appropriate to their age and experience. School values, liturgical season, RE topics, Diocesan Scripture Themes, Cafod and the Wednesday Word are some of the resources used by staff and pupils to inform, support and develop the planning and delivery of Collective Worship in school.

Every opportunity is taken to extend a warm and genuine welcome to parents and families, parishioners, clergy and the local community to take part in the Collective Worship with the school community, as appropriate.

Provision is monitored by the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader, who report regularly to Governors.

Staff are supported in the delivery of Collective Worship in school by the Senior Leadership Team, RE Subject Leader, local clergy and Diocesan advisors. Staff also collaborate on the planning and delivery of Collective Worship with other staff from our local family of Catholic Schools, as appropriate.

THE IMPACT OF OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Pupils and staff talk very positively about Collective Worship. They relish the opportunities to pray, listen and reflect on the Word of God together, keen to participate and where appropriate, lead prayer and liturgy throughout school. Our youngest pupils quickly learn Christian prayer rituals such as lighting candles, joining hands and making the Sign of the Cross and they recognise prayer as 'talking to God'. Older pupils are encouraged to plan and lead class worship, which they do with enthusiasm, working together to creatively and reverently enable themselves and their classmates to lift their hearts and minds to God.

Positive relationships are developed between school and clergy, thus maintaining strong faith links within our local faith community as well as a wider, cluster of schools, as we collaborate to plan and celebrate religious services together as a family of Catholic schools e.g. Advent Service, Confirmation, First Eucharist.

Our school families and local community fully recognise and value our school as a strong faith community and are keen to share in that and the sense of belonging that it creates, whether they are Catholic, Christian, of other world faiths or of no faith. Wherever possible, parents and families, parishioners, clergy and the local community are invited to take part in Collective Worship with the school community and celebrate the Word of God with us. The school also recognises its responsibility in passing on the faith to others and warmly invites visitors to join us for Collective Worship, as appropriate.