



The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian 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 a 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 a daily act of worship for all pupils but worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to our life as a Catholic school.

Worship 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. 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.

As a rule acts of worship will take place on the school premises. Some acts of worship will take place at St Mary's Catholic Church on Holy days or at other locations when the children are participating in residential visits.

Responsibility for ensuring appropriate arrangements for collective worship are in place rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher and in line with Diocesan guidelines (See Appendix 2).

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Collective worship needs to take 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

It will be a spiritual and developmental activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities 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 **familiarize children with** prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to develop personal responses in and through worship
- to experience what is involved in worship
- to participate fully
- to take time '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 good quality and carefully planned activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- give children positive worship and 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
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

The school's daily acts of Collective Worship include an opportunity for personal or communal prayer. They are planned:

- **following a structure based on the Church's seasons, significant dates and events, and the school's curriculum**
- **using Scripture to provide the main focus for most acts of worship**
- **drawing on the school aims, mission statement and ethos statements**
- **with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider local, national and world community**
- **to make a positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community**
- **to develop in pupils skills which enable them to participate at an appropriate level which is meaningful to them**
- **to help pupils develop the skills needed to prepare, organise and lead others in worship**
- **under the supervision of the Collective Worship Coordinator whenever outside providers are involved in its planning**

Among the forms of Collective Worship we celebrate in this school, the celebration of the Eucharist is its highest expression. The same general principles will apply to planning a

celebration of the Eucharist as to the other acts of Collective Worship. Opportunities for children to exercise specific roles in the celebration of the Eucharist will be encouraged and developed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship will be monitored by the Co-ordinator and at least once a year evaluated 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

Audits will be taken of current resources and with a view to highlighting needs.

The Coordinator for Collective Worship

The named leader is **Stephanie Cargill** who also works with the curriculum team.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- 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 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
- **Supervising the planning of Collective Worship whenever an outside provider is involved in the planning**

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- 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

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts 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 Parish Priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- 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

Appendix 2

Diocesan Statement on Collective Worship

It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

in order to ensure that the collective worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

Signed (Chair of Academy Council)

Angela Wicken

Date 16/10/14

Signed (Headteacher)

Lee Talbot

Date 16/10/2014

Review Date September 2017