

Holy Family R.C. Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

'See Christ in ourselves and others'

Reviewed: January 2017
Approving body: LMB (pending approval)
Date of next review: January 2018

Holy Family RC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

The school aims to encourage all children to see Christ in themselves and others in a caring environment which allows them the opportunities to develop to their full potential.

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.

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 Holy Family RC Primary 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.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in Holy Family RC Primary 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 Holy Family RC Primary 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.

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. Staff are invited to pray together at the start of every staff meeting/twilight and briefings (Wed/Fri). CPD days always include a staff liturgy with opportunities for a rich variety of prayer.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Monday a.m. 10.45 – 11.00	Whole School Collective Worship Led by class teachers and SLT	Based on Sunday Gospel Statements Feasts, seasons, special days
Tuesday	Class Worship	Linked to Come and See Topic/ Feasts or Saints' days/PSHE/liturgical calendar
Wednesday	Class Worship Liturgy	Linked to Wednesday Word
Thursday	Class Worship	Linked to Come and See Topic/ Feasts or Saints' days/PSHE/liturgical calendar
Friday a.m. 3.00 -3.25	Whole School celebration Assembly Led by Head Teacher	Starts with act of worship Celebration of the week's achievements Shining Star and Golden Cushion awards
<p>All pupils share in Morning Prayer, Grace before meals and Evening prayer, within their class settings. Our mission statement is shared at every prayer time Additional opportunities for class based liturgies arise through the topics of the 'Come and See' Scheme.</p> <p>Liturgies always include the 4 key elements: Gathering together The Word of God Response Going forth</p>		

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead collective worship, supported by the Deputy Head Teacher. 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 in a termly planner (whole school), weekly planner (class based) and teachers' medium term planning for RE.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision for worship is evaluated to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils and enables them to progress in acquiring skills and confidence in organising and leading worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher.

Class teachers evaluate collective worship in class.

Evaluation of collective worship is evidenced through the views expressed by stakeholders, especially pupils.

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

Resources

Fabric and artefacts are available in each classroom for the focal point

Music is available.

Resource books for Teachers are in the RE cupboards in the main hall.
They are managed and monitored by SLT.

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

Pupils have provided with opportunities for daily retreats (e.g. Diocesan Youth Festival, Holy Island).

Other opportunities

A children's liturgy team is formulated every year and led by the Deputy Head Teacher and parishioner. The team develop liturgy through music, prayer and scripture.

Mini Vinnies attend a commissioning Mass every year.

EY/KS1 classes shares liturgies with parents across the year and KS2 pupils join together for Mass at Holy Family Church at least once per half term.

Whole School Masses occur across the year at key times.

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, with the aim that they will gradually take the lead.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is managed by the SLT and led by Head Teacher, Mr C. Peacock

See Appendix 1: Role of the Collective Worship Coordinator.

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 in particular will play a most important role.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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