

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship



PROUD of our children: **PROUD** of our school: **PROUD** of our faith

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Governors Committee Responsible	Teaching and Learning Committee
Governor Lead	Pat Peel
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Headteacher signature	
Chair of Governors signature	

What is Collective Worship?

**“Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.”
(Circular 1/94)**

Collective worship at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It is rooted in the example and teachings of Jesus Christ whilst taking into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. Collective Worship is an educational experience or a reflection to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

- 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Through our Worship together we aim:

- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To reflect on personal beliefs
- To develop community spirit
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To mark a special time and space
- To give worth to each person and celebrate their uniqueness
- To wonder at the greatness of God
- To take time out
- To come to terms with feelings, emotions and thoughts

Who should be involved in Collective Worship?

- Pupils – they must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship
- Teachers - they plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day
- All staff – they are invited to participate in all acts of Collective Worship
- Parents – they too are invited to participate in acts of Collective Worship during class assemblies, meetings for Sacramental preparation etc.

Where should Collective Worship take place?

- In the classrooms
- In the hall
- In church
- In the open if appropriate

When should Collective Worship take place?

Collective Worship need not occur at the beginning of the day but rather at the time that is most appropriate for us as a school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

How should Collective Worship be delivered?

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors
- Can be offered for a class, a year group, a phase or whole school
- Should use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video or short address
- Should provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- Ensures the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and abilities of the pupils
- Respect the freedom of the pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

How should Collective Worship be planned, recorded and evaluated?

Planning

Themes for Collective Worship are determined with reference to the church's seasons, significant dates and the Come and See curriculum, and with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider Community.

Planning for Collective Worship is in four stages as follows:

Gather

A space for the participants to gather is created. There will be a change in mood and a powerful atmosphere created. Participants are invited to take part and this may involve moving to another space with reverence and order. There may be a procession or a subtle change in the seating and everyone is made to be welcome.

The atmosphere may be created using appropriate music, sensitive lighting or candles and a focus display will set the scene for the theme or topic to be explored. The focus may contain, drapes in appropriate colours, artefacts, the word of God, prayer cards, pictures, images, candles etc. As everyone stills themselves for the worship, the leader will explain the focus for the act of worship for all participants, drawing their thoughts to the quiet, reflective opportunities ahead.

Listen

The participants are invited to listen to a carefully chosen piece of scripture. The word of God

is read /shared clearly so that everyone can hear and appreciate the words. The reading may be shared using a power point presentation, pictures, role play, music etc. If a bible is used, it should be treated with care and great respect so that all can see the importance of this holy book.

Respond

The participants are supported to respond in a variety of ways. There may be time for silent reflection, personal and private prayer, community prayer, singing. There may be a response through action e.g. placing a pebble onto a display or sharing a sign of peace.

Go Forth

As the worship concludes, the leader may suggest ways that the message or theme may be taken out and sustained, so that the participant may further spread the word and example of God. There may be a challenge or a further question on which to reflect. A symbol, sign, card or object may be given to each participant as they leave, to give further lasting meaning to the collective worship.

Recording

The worship may be recorded through displays, prayers, photographs etc. Each class has a celebration book for this purpose.

The planning for collective worship keep notes of themes, leaders, pupil groupings etc.

Evaluating

Staff and pupils regularly evaluate the worship and parents are asked to complete the visitors book after they have attended class worship.



Opportunities provided for Collective Worship

Opportunities provided for collective worship

Nursery and Reception

Early Years staff lead their own collective worship within their own settings, however, during the summer term, Nursery pupils visit Reception for Collective Worship to help with transition.

Reception, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two

At the start of the school year, Reception pupils are gradually introduced to the larger group assemblies, which take place each Monday.

Monday	-	In hall during assembly
Tuesday	-	Within class setting
Wednesday	-	Within class setting
Thursday	-	Within class setting
Friday	-	Within class setting / within Celebration Assembly

Class Collective Worship

There are a series of whole class collective worship assemblies which celebrate the themes from 'Come and See' throughout the year to which parents are invited.

Whole School

Throughout the year pupils participate in Mass, and deliver seasonal services for parents and members of the community: Eg. Advent, Carol service, Ash Wednesday, Easter service, Corpus Christi, St. Peter and Paul etc.

Leaving Celebration

A special Mass is celebrated at the end of the academic year, which recalls the children's journey through our school and points them towards their future lives in Secondary School. All members of staff, parents and Governors are invited to attend.

Parish/School Sacramental Programme

We believe that it is essential that Home, School and Parish work very closely together in preparing each pupil for the Sacraments.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School fully supports the parish in their preparation of the children for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Parents are invited to an initial meeting during which the process of preparation and the commitment required is outlined. Input from the parish priest, school and catechists is given.

We follow the 'With You Always' Programme. This is a resource for parents and their children who are in Year 4. The resource encourages parents/carers and children to meet together with parish catechists, supported by the school, to learn about the sacraments using the family catechesis method. Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith as is made clear when the child is baptised. The goal of family catechesis is the evangelisation of the whole family with particular emphasis on the support of parents to pass on the faith to their children. Family catechesis helps support the Home-Parish-School partnership.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis but maybe changed/updated at anytime, following discussions with staff, so that it always remains a workable document, reflecting current practice and providing guidance for our school community.