

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

Our school works with families, parishes and the community to provide all our children with opportunities which will help them grow in the knowledge and love of God and each other.

We will help them to develop as a whole person by providing a curriculum which will embrace the individual needs of all pupils.

This will be done within a Catholic setting which seeks to follow the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"

(John 10 : 10)

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 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. (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). We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Music is an essential form of worship which enriches all prayer activities. Other forms of worship include Eucharistic and non-eucharistic celebrations, time for quiet reflections and dance.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We have a prayer room which children are encouraged to use.

Staff pray before meetings and have a short get together each Monday morning. There is opportunity for morning prayer on Tuesday morning in the prayer room.

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity 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 (we occasionally have special Collective Worship eg Remembrance Day or when requested to pray for others)
- ❖ to develop a common ethos, shared values and a warm caring sense of community.
- ❖ to enrich religious experience
- ❖ to grow in liturgical understanding and development
- ❖ to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- ❖ to take time out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.
- ❖ To give children and adults opportunity to pray together.

It is our ultimate aim as a Catholic School that we give opportunities for our children to meet with God and feel God in their lives.

We do this through:

Prayer

Music

Liturgy

Mass

Sacraments

Being kind

Scriptures

Visiting Church

Reaching out to others and those in need

Silence

Principles

All Collective Worship in this school will:

- ❖ raise our mind and heart to God
- ❖ celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community
- ❖ be a high quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- ❖ support learners' spiritual development
- ❖ give learners positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds. In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings;
 - seek to involve learners at all times in preparation and leadership.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- ❖ following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, R.E. Scheme, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in some acts of worship
- ❖ to develop in learners skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contribution in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- ❖ on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- ❖ through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos, etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated through observation and staff discussion.

Resources

Resources are kept in classroom or Prayer Room.

A list of Resources is available.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will provide appropriate activities and involvement so that all age groups can be included. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for learners to participate will be maximised.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The co-ordinator for Collective Worship is Mrs O'Donnell.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator 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.

Date of adoption by Governing Body:

Renewal date:

