

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Loving, Learning and Reaching out to All



Aims

Collective Worship aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by:-

- providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- developing a community spirit.
- promoting and encouraging a common ethos, and sharing values and reinforcing positive attitudes.
- providing opportunities to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues.
- building a firm foundation of Liturgy.
- providing an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- ensuring pupils have the opportunity to explore their own beliefs.
- respecting and celebrating life.
- enabling and encouraging a sense of belonging.
- promoting each child's innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

Objectives

To fulfil these aims, Our Lady's will provide opportunities for our community to:-

- celebrate life and learning
- give worth to
- wonder at
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- pray together
- take part in worship through prayer, drama and song
- follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
- explore the child's own experiences by helping each individual to EXPLORE, REVEAL & RESPOND with regard to all acts of collective worship.

Collective Worship – Who

At Our Lady's, the Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure provision of collective worship on a daily basis for each child. Teachers enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents/Carers and governors are often invited to participate in acts of Collective Worship. We acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship.

In the classroom – this room is where our children spend most of their time; therefore it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and members of staff. Here a focus for worship is provided based on a Come and See topic, time of the year or relevant theme. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in the planning process.

In the school hall – here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers, governors, parishioners and family friends, come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the open – we have plenty of space outside to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In church – both our parishes are beautiful places to share the message of the Gospel. They are places we can come together to share and worship with our parish community.

Collective Worship – When

We assemble in a variety of groups including class groups, key stage groups or whole school.

Whole School Collective Worship

Assemblies/Shared Collective Worship

Assemblies begin with an act of collective worship and then continue with another area of focus. On a weekly basis there is one Key Stage 1, one Key Stage 2 and one whole school assembly. Teachers lead the KS assemblies whilst the whole school assembly is led by the Headteacher.

The themes of the assemblies are often based upon the Come and See themes, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects and global, national or local events.

Classes prepare and lead a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See theme to which all parents/carers family friends and governors are invited.

On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebration assembly. Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are always invited to these whole school acts of Collective Worship e.g. Advent, Lent, end of year etc.

Class Worship

For the remainder of the week, the class is the focus for worship. Themes are many and varied, including:

- relating to work done in the Come and See programme
- linking to the appropriate Liturgical season
- linking to other celebrations
- developing themes or ideas suggested by children or staff
- Address the needs of the children (loss, bereavement, celebration etc.)
- Be prompted by aspects of the global dimension or news items

The teacher may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

Acts of collective worship will always include an appropriate reference from scripture

Children with Additional Needs

The whole school approach to Collective Worship is inclusive, the individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

Continuity and Progression

The content and delivery of Collective Worship allows for the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding. Much of the worship is governed by the themes in the Come and See programme. This ensures progression and continuity, as both these aspects of a child's learning are an integral part of Come and See. The themes covered encompass a structured, well planned programme.

Cross Curricular

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience. It includes many areas of the curriculum and care is taken to fulfil our mission. Hence, our whole curriculum is celebrated, as we believe that every aspect of school life helps to develop the child's potential as an individual.

Evaluation and Assessment

Collective Worship is evaluated with reference to a variety of possible Collective Worship experiences. Records are also maintained through display, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers and reflections.

Prayer

All teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child's school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Collective Worship.

Children gather together for prayer at the start and end of the day and also before mealtimes, we also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises.

Class teachers are encouraged to choose prayers, which they think are most suitable for their children's age. We also recognise that certain prayers form part of the culture and tradition of the Catholic faith and as such we are extending the range of prayers pupils know and understand.

Children are encouraged to have an active role in planning the Collective Worship. They can share their own prayers with peers and create the atmosphere for successful worship through the selection of readings and music.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purpose of this guidance as :-

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Promoting British Values:

At Our Lady's Catholic Primary School we aim to help, guide and prepare our children as future citizens. Our Mission statement encourages all stakeholders to Love, Learn and Reach out to All. This statement permeates through our school and encapsulates the British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We grasp every opportunity throughout the school day to teach, model and show these key attributes.

In Conclusion:

Collective Worship at Our Lady's provides opportunities for pupils and staff and wider community to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our faith journey.

We firmly believe that worship is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.