

St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

'Christ's Light Shines Through Our Learning'

Mission Statement

This policy document should be considered in the light of our School Mission Statement which outlines all that underpins our work at St. Anne's:

"Christ's Light Shines Through Our Learning."

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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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.

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.

The 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
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce 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.'
- To involve all staff where possible
- To involve parents, where possible, when a class or year group is involved in leading the worship

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Develop pupils skills, enabling them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way
- 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.¹ In order to do this, celebrations will be;

- kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

- short and appropriately paced

- simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

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

Collective Worship occurs on these occasions:

Within the Class

- Prayers are said at the start and end of the day, also at lunchtimes. The children are also made aware of other prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary.
- The opportunity for children to pray is given and the Prayer Room is available throughout the day.

Whole School

- Weekly collective worship takes place for the whole school, led by staff with some child led input where appropriate.

Other World Religions

It is recognised that the parents have chosen to send their child to a Catholic school and to be educated through the Catholic faith. Children from other World Religions are present in the school and are fully included in the religious life of the school. This religious diversity is celebrated and children are encouraged to share, beliefs and customs associated with their faith in a positive manner.

World Religions other than Christianity are taught in the school in accordance with the Come and See scheme of work.

Resources

A selection of resources are available in each class and can be found in the RE cupboards. Each class has a range of resources relating to the Come and See scheme.

Eucharist

As a school we regularly attend Mass and services at St Anne's Catholic Church for feast days and other special times of the year. A school Mass is held at the end of every term.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

Equal opportunities

All pupils have opportunities to participate in collective worship. Provision is made for certain pupils with SEN and physical disabilities.

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. The Mission and Purpose Committee in particular will play a most important role.

Signed _____
Mr Roy Dolan – Chair of Governors

Date _____

Signed _____
Mrs C Priest-Jones – Head Teacher

Date _____

Signed _____
Miss E Davies – R.E Subject Leader

Date _____

Revised Edition
September 2017

NB: May 2019 – Introduced Class Mass on a Friday. Each Friday morning a different class will attend Mass in Church, younger classes to pair up with older classes until this is embedded.