



# Collective Worship

## Policy for Collective Worship

# Our Mission Statement is JOY through RESPECT.

We challenge each member of our community to:

Open your heart to the teachings of -

Jesus, the needs of

Others and then

You will have **JOY**

**Collective Worship** is our loving response to God's invitation to enter into relationship. We hold a daily act of worship for all pupils and view it as an integral part of school life.

Collective Worship at Our Lady of Pity is a celebratory experience. We GATHER, LISTEN (to the Word of God), RESPOND (through reflection) and Go (forth, to apply learning).

**The Eucharist** - Eucharistic celebrations are held at school and Our Lady of Pity Church. They are regular and opportunities for questions are given at the end.

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.<sup>1</sup>

### **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.

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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.

### **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.

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

### **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.'

### **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
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience
  - be appropriately paced

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

#### EYFS / KS1 Collective Worship.

Monday	Class Collective Worship
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship
Friday	Class Collective Worship

#### KS2 Collective Worship

Monday	Class Collective Worship
Tuesday	Singing Collective Worship (9-9.30am)
Wednesday	Class Collective Worship
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship (2.30-3.00pm)
Friday	Class Collective Worship

All class Collective Worship takes place for 10minutes after lunch.  
Throughout the week, KS2 choose a day to celebrate Year group Collective Worship in the hall at 3.00pm for 15 minutes.

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- In a class book
- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Learning walks take place once a term to observe class collective worship and to celebrate the collective worship books in each class.

Governors are invited to whole school collective worship and school mass.

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

## **Resources**

Every class has a Collective Worship box containing a small holding cross, rosary beads, prayer pebbles, liturgical cloths, prayer cards, candles and a liturgical wheel.

Every class has bags containing planning cards gather, response and going forth.

## **The Co-ordinators for Collective Worship**

Mrs Amanda Maney  
Mrs Elizabeth Johnson

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinators

## **The Role of the Co-ordinators for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts 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

### **Professional development / Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

### **Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, cloths, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

