



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Summer 2018

With Jesus, We Live, Learn and Love

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 a relationship.

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 / no Christian traditions
- 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 reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs and the mystery of God
- 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 (by children planning their collective worship)
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully

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 in pupils, skills that enable 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.
- Collective worship in our school will be:

Prayer

There is an implicit spiritual dimension to all forms of Collective Worship, culminating always in prayer. Visual and auditory aids are used, including artefacts, posters, candles, reflective music and hymns.

Children are encouraged to develop an active participation in prayer through a gradual, nurturing process, which should begin in the home but often doesn't. For some children, St Teresa's provides the only/most important experience of faith community. A sense of belonging – to the school as a worshipping community and to the church within the parish – is considered an essential foundation for prayer and is fostered throughout the child's years at St Teresa's.

We work in close liaison with St Basil's Parish and the Parish Priests who support the school through the delivery of Masses and Liturgy events. Opportunities for prayer are created through formal and informal settings, allowing the child to explore a variety of methods of spontaneous, private and group prayer and to learn traditional prayers.

At St Teresa's we promote an appreciation of prayer and participation in prayer through the use of appropriate focal points such as:

Silence	Music
Songs	Singing
Scripture	Visual e.g. candles, flowers etc.
Images	Artefacts
Posters	Hymns
Retreats	

Our Prayer Garden is being developed for children and staff to use as a dedicated area for prayer and reflection.

Resources:

- CD's with song music and accompanying books.

- Guidance books on planning collective worship.
- Co-ordinators file of examples of previous masses and liturgies.
- Internet for religious music, video clips and current news.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Year 6 children attend a day retreat in the summer term.

Policy Monitoring and Review

The application of this policy is monitored by the RE Lead and the policy will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and the link governor every two years.

Legal Requirements

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 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, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.