



St Peter's RC Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Our Mission Statement

St Peter's RCPS, whilst celebrating and benefitting from our Catholic heritage and traditions is a vibrant, dynamic and enterprising learning and worshipping community. Our life as a school is underpinned and inspired by a series of core Christian values that define our mission, identity and vision. These are:

- * Love
- * Respect
- * Hope
- * Truth
- * Forgiveness
- * Friendship
- * Trust
- * Thankfulness
- * Justice
- * Joy



We frame these Christian Values within the 5Ws

Welcome – How we welcome people into our school community.

Welfare – How we care for the well-being of our school family.

Witness – How we reflect the teachings of the Bible through the way we live our lives.

Word – How we use the Word of God as the template for life and learning.

Worship – How we confidently and enthusiastically proclaim and explore our faith

INTRODUCTION

At St Peter's RC Primary School we value collective worship highly. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic heritage upon which we are built. Children, parents, staff, parish and governors are a worshipping community. As such we seek to be an example to others in the way that we live, learn, work, play and pray together.



St Peter's RC Primary School Collective Worship Policy

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We believe that distinctive Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God in a wide variety of forms as we discover more about Him. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a meaningful relationship with Him. We therefore seek to ensure that collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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 children, or separate acts of worship in relevant groups. St Peter's is a voluntary aided school, therefore responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body through consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship if they so desire. The request must be made in writing to the headteacher.

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF ST PETER'S

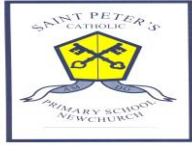
Worship, however, is more than just a legal requirement. We endorse the belief that worship is inclusive and it takes into account the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church and parish
- Those for whom school may be the only place where they experience collective worship
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those of other faiths and religious backgrounds.

THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We believe that collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To contemplate the awesome mystery of God.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.
- To become more aware of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore their own beliefs.
- To experience a sense of belonging and deepen community spirit.
- To re-affirm and communicate our ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experiences.
- To ensure familiarity with prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.



St Peter's RC Primary School Collective Worship Policy

- To affirm positive attitudes by worshipping in a way that fosters openness, honesty, trust, sensitivity to others coupled with equal opportunity.
- To develop reverence and respect through experiences of liturgy, scripture and prayer.
- To explore aspects of Catholic liturgy and practice such as symbol, gestures and actions.
- To celebrate together the feasts and seasons of the Christian calendar, with particular emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- To build upon the home/school/parish link by including members of the home and parish families in our collective worship whenever possible.
- To gain awareness and understanding of the wider Christian family beyond the school/parish community

THE PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our 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 all acts of worship.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations and events within the school, local community and wider world.
- To develop in children the skills and confidence that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship in a way which is meaningful and relevant to them. This is the particular responsibility of our Pupil Chaplains who are led by our Lay Chaplain and regularly attend Pupil Chaplain training and visioning days.

The format for Collective Worship at St Peter's will include:

- ❖ **Gathering** – how we come together, the setting, the environment and atmosphere (quiet music; a visual focus for prayer and reflection such as icons, art and lighted candles)
- ❖ **Proclaiming** – every act of worship will be centred on at least one text from the Bible. The Word of God will be proclaimed from the Bible or Lectionary.
- ❖ **Responding** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. This may vary (music, singing, drama, poetry, reflection and silence). We will place our own needs and those of others and the wider world before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Going Forth** – Children and adults will take something away from the experience of worship and the encouragement to apply it in their daily lives.

EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight the beginning and end of a school year as well as other special occasions in the Church's liturgical calendar. Key events in the lives of our pupils are also commemorated with a school Mass, for example Year 6 leavers and Year 3 as part of their Sacramental Programme.



St Peter's RC Primary School Collective Worship Policy



RECORDING

Collective worship is recorded:

- In worship folders.
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections and photographs.
- In the weekly school Newsletter where the 'Thought of the Week' or 'Big Question' is shared with our school community.

PATTERN OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Each week the school community gather as a whole on at least 3 occasions to worship together. On a Monday the 'Thought of the Week' or 'Big Question of the Week' is shared and explored, this is revisited in the final gathering of the week on a Friday afternoon. On Wednesday the school joins together to celebrate through the medium of singing.
- Twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) children and staff gather in their relevant Key Stages to share the Glory of God.
- In their classrooms, children also join in prayer at the start and end of the day as well as prior to sharing their lunchtime together.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The school's provision for collective worship will be evaluated regularly to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils, its impact and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy was formulated following consultation with children, staff and governors. It will be monitored annually for effectiveness and updated in the light of experience.

Policy reviewed and updated: September 2016

Date of next review: September 2018