

**ST MARYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND NURSERY**
(including Happy Days)



Collective Worship Policy

**This policy was approved by Governor's on
March 2017 and will be reviewed in
March 2019**

Collective Worship Policy

"For me prayer is a surge of heart; it is a simple look toward heaven; it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." (St Therese of Lisieux)

Mission Statement

'Following Mary In Faith'

Rationale

The Mission statement informs the policy and practice of Collective worship in St Mary's Catholic Primary School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and Catholic ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Catholic understanding of God as Trinity. Prayer and Liturgy is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise, thanksgiving and intercession to God the Father through Jesus Christ his beloved Son, united in the power of the Holy Spirit who moves us to pray. Therefore it involves the "raising of one's mind and heart to God" engaging every aspect of ourselves as individuals and as a community. It is central to the life of our school.

Aims

"The Eucharist has always been at the centre of the Church's life. Through it Christ makes present within time the mystery of his death and resurrection." (Pope John PaulII)

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the life of our school. In the Eucharist the school celebrates its Catholic

identity and acknowledges that the source and summit of its life is found in the offering of Jesus Christ.

Through prayer and Liturgy in our school we aim to:

- Pray by giving thanks and intercession to God using traditional prayers of the Catholic Church.
- To introduce children to a variety of types of prayer- thanksgiving, contrition, intercession, adoration and praise including meditative prayer.
- Come to know and acknowledge the presence of God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures and silence.
- Experience school life that is rooted in prayer and worship of God.
- Contemplate the mystery and transcendence of God who is ever close to us and ever beyond us.
- Develop a sense of wonder and awe at the presence of God amongst us and the gift of life itself.
- Explore the beliefs of the Catholic faith community and their own beliefs.
- Experience what it means to belong or take part in the worshipping community of the Church.
- Learn how the Liturgy of the Church is structured and the meaning of the different parts of the Liturgical rites.
- Be able to make links between communal prayer and liturgy and daily life.

Diocesan Requirements

Prayer must be an integral part of the beginning and end of the school day for all members of the school community and must be rooted in the Liturgical calendar of the church. This should include seasons, solemnities, feasts, memorials of saints and the ferial celebration of the Church's Liturgy. There must be regular opportunities for the whole school to pray together for prayer and liturgy. Prayer in class and in assemblies should always include a focal point which should be appropriate to the liturgical season. Staff at all levels and pupils should be involved in leading and participating in Prayer and Liturgy. At least fifteen minutes of every day should be set aside for Collective worship.

The celebration of Mass is a regular part of the school's provision for liturgy.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, liturgy and prayer are such an integral part of school life that parents and prospective parents are made aware it may take place in a variety of contexts and can never be confined to "timetabled slots." Worship is central to our school's life and work and is regarded as a central part of children's education.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Foundation governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that the Catholic character of the school is reflected in Collective acts of worship.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Collective worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.

- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 43 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also works closely with the Parish Priest and keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place by the appointed date.

Organisation

Prayer and Liturgy happen on a daily basis at St Mary's school.

Monday

9.00-9.20am whole school Prayer and Liturgy based on the Sunday Gospel reading of that week, led by the Executive Headteacher/Head of School. The whole school community is involved in this act of worship.

Tuesday KS1/KS2 assembly alternate weeks. Collective worship in class if no KS assembly that week.

Wednesday Whole school assembly led by teachers on a rota basis 10.10am- 10.30am

Thursday 9.00-9.45 Whole school Mass in Church.

Friday Collective worship in class 9-9.15

3.00 - 3.30 whole school congratulations assembly. Led by Headteacher to promote the good work and behaviour of the children. The whole school community is involved. Begins and ends with prayer/reflection.

The parents are encouraged to join the school at our Friday Congratulations celebration and for Mass each Thursday. All staff wherever possible are encouraged to attend all Prayer and Liturgy services.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in and plan and lead collective worship when possible- in class or for other Key stages.

Structure Of Prayer and Liturgy

The structure of communal Prayer and Liturgy is based upon the four principals of gathering together, listening, responding and going forth.

Gathering together

- Music, song, candles, procession all contribute towards helping the community enter into a time of prayer together.
- Psalms are often used as a gathering prayer especially Psalms 145-150 which remind us that our duty is to praise God when we come together to pray.
- Use of a focal point linked to the Church's season and appropriate feast day helps support us gathering together to pray.

Listening

- In every act of communal prayer and Liturgy God's word is proclaimed.
- The word of God should be proclaimed from the Bible or Lectionary.
- Sometimes the reading may be accompanied by images.

- A few moments of silence should be given following the reading to allow everybody to reflect on what they have just heard.

Responding and Going Forth.

- A variety of prayer forms are used to provide opportunities to give praise and thanks to God for the many blessings God bestows on us.
- Use a variety of traditional prayers of the Church and those of the saints and highlight those which have moments of praise and thanksgiving. Eg. St. Francis Canticle of creation.
- Prayers of intercession follow the following structure- pray for the Church, the world, other needs and local needs.
- Responding should include some time for personal reflection and silence.
- Guided meditations taking scenes from the Gospels can help focus the children and let the words of the Gospel speak to them in a new way.
- Reflective prayer can be aided by background music and a symbolic focus.
- We leave strengthened in our mission to live as Christ in the world.

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Prayer and Liturgy. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation.

RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the assembly rota, a copy of which is displayed in the staffroom. Staff are encouraged to refer to "Learning and celebrating throughout the year" when planning collective worship. (see Appendix)

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- observation of children's' attentiveness and level of interest.
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- comments from parents. visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Prayer and Liturgy. Such pupils would be fully supervised in another part of the school.

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school.

ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

- To write the school's policy for Collective worship in consultation with the Head teacher and Foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School

Development Plan.

- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Prayer and Liturgy in all its forms.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the Governing Body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Prayer and Worship.

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption. (March 2018)

Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

APPENDIX

- 1) Collective worship planning sheet.
- 2) Information sheet- types of prayer.
- 3) Learning and celebrating throughout the year.
- 4) List of Traditional Catholic Prayers.
- 5) Ideas for Liturgy Throughout the Year (1&2)
- 6) Opportunities to pray through the Strategy

This policy was reviewed by Governor's in March 2017

Signed:

**Mrs B Corbett
Executive Headteacher**

Date: March 2017

Signed:

**Mrs A Geoghegan
Chair of ARC**

Date: March 2017

To be reviewed: March 2019