



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

CORPUS CHRISTI HIGH SCHOOL  
Ysgol Uwchradd Corpus Christi

This document contains the specific policy and associated information relating to the Collective Worship Policy at Corpus Christi High School

Approved by Governors : 6 November 2017



# **CORPUS CHRISTI HIGH SCHOOL**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Together we are the body of Christ**

In our school community we will

- show our love by helping and forgiving each other
- recognise that everyone is unique and celebrate their differences
- value ourselves, develop our talents and help others to develop theirs
- strive for excellence in everything we do
- grow closer to God in Word, in Sacrament and in what we do
- live in partnership with all those around us
- respond to Christ's call to build His kingdom

### **THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.<sup>2</sup> (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.

<sup>1</sup> It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> 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 need to 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.

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, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

### **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 this 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 develop the skills of :
  - Reverence
  - Contemplation
  - Reflection
  - Interpretation
  - Empathy
  - Meditation
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

Prayer can be used for several purposes :

<b>Adoration</b>	-	to praise and glorify God
<b>Contrition</b>	-	to acknowledge our human frailties and to seek forgiveness
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	-	to thank God for creation, our lives, our families, for a petition answered and so forth
<b>Supplication</b>	-	to pray for others, the needs of the World and so forth

## PRINCIPLES

All Acts of Worship in this school will :

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give young people positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church

Celebrations will be short and appropriately paced.

Every form class has a daily Act of Worship with their form tutor.

Form teachers give opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship in the form room.

One day a week, a year group assembly takes place in the hall. This is organised Year 7 through to Year 11 Monday to Friday.<sup>3</sup>

Every form class has the opportunity to plan and lead a whole year group assembly.

## 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 in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way
- to allow for appropriate outside visitors to contribute to pupils' understanding of examples of faith in action

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be :

**Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons, OHP images etc).

**Proclaim** - every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed.

**Reflect** - pupils are given an opportunity to reflect on God's word and how it applies to their own lives

**Respond** - the response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc). We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers).

**Go Forth** - giving the pupils something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

<sup>3</sup> Various people lead this act of Collective Worship including the pupils with their form teachers, the Headteacher and other members of the Leadership Team, Head and Assistant Head of Year, Heads of Upper and Lower School the School Chaplain and the head of RE.

### **RECORDING**

Collective Worship is recorded on a planner at the start of each term which is displayed in the staffroom and administration offices and is distributed to all staff leading the Worship. They are monitored periodically by Deacon Rob Coyne and the Senior Leadership Team.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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**

Computer (D&T technicians will advise and set-up  
if requested)

Lectern - Chapel

Bibles - Chaplain and RE Department

Candles - Chapel

Music - Head of Music/Music Department

Cross/Crucifix - Chapel

Large Rosary - RE Department

Assembly materials - Chaplain



**CORPUS CHRISTI HIGH SCHOOL**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

I have read the school's Policy for Collective Worship and hereby undertake to ensure that the principles of this policy are met and adhered to.

Signed .....

Date .....