



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

“At Holy Family Catholic Primary School we encourage our children to live together, work together and pray together in a way which will enable them to find fulfilment in this life and be a living example within the community.”

(Our School Mission Statement)

Introduction to Collective Worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship in a Catholic school is concerned with the revelation of God’s presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective Worship should strengthen this Eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective Worship is this community’s response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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, prayed either by the teacher or everyone present, does not necessarily fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and assembly are often 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, 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 Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It will have Christ at its heart and, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church. 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 of the Church
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- those for 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 at Holy Family is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It will be related to the 'day to day life, aspirations, and concerns of the school.' (*Education Reform Act 1988*)

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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- give glory 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 short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life, i.e. 5-6 minutes for key stage one, 7-10 minutes for key stage 2.)
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Class Based Acts of Collective Worship

- Teachers organise, plan and prepare other acts of worship, such as simple prayer services that are appropriate to the spiritual life of the class. These may incorporate music, drama, mime, reflection, meditation and litanies. Wherever possible this should be planned with the children's involvement.
- The whole school is involved in following a weekly theme. This is set by the collective worship co-ordinator. Teachers are asked to be flexible with this theme and plan according to their class needs as they develop.

All Acts of Worship at Holy Family follow the structure outlined below:

- Gather
- Listen
- Respond
- Go Forth

Gather

This movement of prayer calls the group to prayer and reminds them to be aware of God's presence and their relationship to God and each other. We always begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Listen

This movement of the prayer gives the group a chance to hear the scriptures and stories which allow reflection on how God is active and alive in our lives.

Scripture is always a part of this movement

Respond

The third movement of prayer reminds us that it is not enough to just hear the word of God, we must keep it. How will we respond to our awareness of how God continues to love us unconditionally? This movement of the prayer is how the students are responding to the scripture they have just heard in the Listen movement.

Go Forth

The final movement of prayer sends us forth with a renewed sense of our mission to live the Gospel each and every day. Prayer helps us to focus on the big picture but also on the simple ways that each of us needs to be a disciple to those around us. We always end with the sign of the cross.

Worship & Assemblies

- Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher each Monday morning at 9am.
- Key stage two Collective Worship led by a member of key stage two teaching staff each Tuesday morning at 9am.
- Key stage one Collective Worship led by a member of key stage one teaching staff each Thursday morning at 9am.
- Sharing of whole school 'Good News' led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher each Friday afternoon at 3pm.

Who?

- The Headteacher and RE Lead will ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.
- The Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher.
- Class teachers plan and enable Collective Worship to take place.
- Pupils will have the opportunities to take part in daily Collective Worship.
- Parents will be invited to participate in acts of Collective Worship each half term for the relevant class.

Where?

Collective Worship can take place

- In the school hall
- In the class setting

- In our school grounds
- In our parish church
- On residential visits

When?

It should occur at the time most appropriate for the class or key stage to ensure that it is meaningful and prayerful. It is important to note that each child takes part in Collective Worship every day.

How?

Collective Worship should provide a variety of experiences:

- It can be led by learners, staff or visitors.
- Can be offered for a class, year group, phase or whole school.
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance drama, slides or short address.
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of learners.
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Whole School Celebrations

Dates, times and activities for whole school Collective Worship is planned and delivered through consultation with the Parish Priest.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus for most acts of Worship.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situation 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 in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded by each member of staff delivering Worship. Records will be monitored and evaluated by the RE Lead.

Monitoring and Evaluation at Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Regular evaluation is encouraged by staff and pupils to:

- establish if the collective worship provided meets the needs of all the pupils.
- enable pupils to make progress in acquiring skills. e.g. organise and lead celebrations.

Once a term, the school's provision of Worship will be evaluated through pupil interviews to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring the skills and abilities in organising and leading Worship. The delivery of Collective Worship will also be monitored on a termly basis by the RE Lead, with staff being observed and records being checked.

Resources

Each classroom will have a focus table and staff may use a variety of books and artefacts to engage all participants in Worship, including Gods Story books, psalms, crosses, statues, candles, posters reflecting different themes and seasons of the liturgical year, music, images etc.

Liturgy

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage or be differentiated appropriately so that all ages and abilities can be included. The same general principles will be applied to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. The Parish Priest will lead mass within school once a term – these dates will be confirmed in advance. Each class will also take part in a Parish Mass held at church at least once a term. In order to prepare children for the sacraments of Confirmation / First Eucharist and Reconciliation the school supports the parish sacramental programme 'With You Always'. The Eucharist and Reconciliation topics are studied in the Come and See programme in a developmental way.

The Co-ordinator of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship at Holy Family is co-ordinated by the Religious Education Leader:
Miss S. Forster.

The Role of the Co-ordinator 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 religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory of Masses for Children' and Revised Roman Missal
- Organising themes for Collective Worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Monitoring acts of Collective Worship as required.
- 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 a consultants to colleagues.
- Encouraging positive attitudes to Collective Worship.
- Informing newly qualified and newly appointed colleagues of school policy in regard to Collective Worship.
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaising with parish clergy.
- Liaising with Archdiocesan Education team.

Professional Development / Ongoing Formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and feeding back
- Seek and provide training opportunities for the development of other staff members.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Leadership Team and Religious Education Lead and reviewed by the whole school staff on a yearly basis. Governors review reports on all the aspects of Religious Education on a termly basis. This will form part of the Headteacher's Report to Governors.