

Collective Worship policy



"A Christ-centred family, illuminated by the light of faith, inspired to achieve."

"In the light of God's love, together we will grow."

Aim

Our aim at Our Lady and All Saints school is to foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and action thus enriching the pupils' religious experience. One of the ways this is achieved is through a shared experience of worship. We will enable the whole school community to have a sense of belonging in a common ethos centred around Jesus. We also welcome all pupils of other religions and none.



Objectives

We will achieve our aim

- by providing regular opportunities for children and staff to gather to worship God
- by developing opportunities for spiritual growth within aspects of prayer and reflection
- by ensuring our collective worship is planned appropriate to our children's abilities, age and needs
- by inviting parents, governors and the wider community to share our worship and encourage conscious active participation of all present
- by using a balance of quiet reflection, silent prayer, responses, prayer, music, songs, dance, drama, short address
- by providing a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- by respecting the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship



Places for Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place mainly on the school premises but there are times when collective worship is organised elsewhere for special occasions.

- + whole school collective worship takes place in the school hall
- + class or phase acts of collective worship take place in the classroom
- + occasionally the grounds of school or Church are used to celebrate in prayer
- + Mass and Sacramental celebrations take place in Church at certain times of the year
- + Church is used on other occasions, eg Lent – the Stations of the Cross
- + Cathedral for celebrations with the wider community
- + St. Mary's Leyland for the Good Shepherd Mass

Times for Collective Worship

The timing of the Act can be flexible, ie at any time of the day, so as to ensure it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

Monday 9.00 – 9.30am: Whole school collective worship led by Headteacher

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 minutes collective worship in class at any time of day

Wednesday ***Key Stage 1 9:00***
 Key Stage 2: 10:45

The school says Grace before meals in own classrooms and Grace after meals in the hall together.

We all end the school day with a prayer.

Planning for Collective Worship

Collective worship should be planned for and recorded as appropriate.

Planning

At Our Lady and All Saints school we plan with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates, the curriculum, sensitivity to the issues of the local community and the wider world.

We plan for active participation through responses and song. We use suitable resources to stimulate the children including Bible readings and psalms. All staff are given the opportunity to plan Acts of Collective Worship. They will contain the following elements: Preparing, Gathering, Listen, Respond, Go forth.

Pupils are involved in the planning of Collective Worship whether as a class, group or individually. They are supported by the use of the proforma. (attached)



Evaluating

Whole school Acts of Worship are evaluated by staff through discussion in order to improve the provision and variety of experiences. Collective Worship will be evaluated by the Senior Management Team when this Policy is reviewed. The evaluation will be passed on to the Governors.

Recording

At Our Lady and All Saints collective worship is recorded through display, pupils contributions, prayers and photographs.

Copies of whole school assemblies, Masses, Sacramental celebrations etc are kept in a central file.

Resources

See R. E. Handbook

Creating the Environment for Prayer

At Our Lady and All Saints we aim to create an environment that encourages prayer

- + prayerful images
- + appropriate music
- + suitable lighting
- + comfortable posture
- + atmosphere of peacefulness

Prayer Table

Each classroom has a designated area for prayer. The prayer table contains a candle, bible, plant or flowers, focus for that topic and maybe a cross.

Cloths

The colour of the cloth can be different for each liturgical season.

Purple:	Advent and Lent
White:	Christmas, Easter, special feast days
Gold:	Special Celebrations
Red:	Pentecost, Good Friday
Green:	Ordinary time (Pentecost to Advent. After Christmas to Lent)

The change of colour highlights the mood and focus of the prayer Church.

Focus for Prayer

(A prayer table would contain a small selection of the following)

Candles:	candles remind us that Jesus is amongst us and is the Light of the World
Bible:	the word of God should be given prominence on the prayer table
Flowers/Plants:	greenery is a reminder of God's beautiful world and of the Gift of creation
Sacred images:	crucifix, statue, pictures of Jesus and Mary
Interesting objects:	variety of stone or shells give a good focus for prayer
Meaningful pictures:	pictures or photographs appropriate to the theme
Prayer or story/ Poetry books:	have one open that reflects the topic being studied
Oil burners:	aromatic smells are relaxing for prayer

Collective Worship—Children’s planner

Names _____

Date _____

Theme _____

Prayer focus _____

Music _____

Gather “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Listen “A reading from....” or “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to.....” Response “*Glory to you , O Lord.*”

At the end of the reading “The word of the Lord.” Response “*Thanks be to God.*” or “The Gospel of the Lord. “ “*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Respond (Prayer or symbolic action)

Go Forth (What to hold on to, to understand and apply faith to life.)

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

What went well?

What would you do next time?

Thank you for planning this special time together.