

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Mission Statement

Everyone at St John of Beverley RC Primary School knows we are part of God's family. We share, play and learn together and try to be the best we can be.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that children learn to understand and celebrate the diversity of the world in which they live, recognising that all human beings are relational and that we cannot love God without loving ourselves and our neighbours.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, thanks and praise to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship that has been made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

In our Acts of Worship we aim to encourage the children to express their knowledge of God and to give thanks to Him

Legal Requirements

St John of Beverley School complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship. 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 also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement – it is an integral part of school life and central to its Catholic tradition.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow these to take place elsewhere on special occasions, for example, St John of Beverley Parish Church

Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher /RE Coordinator.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Collective Worship. However, given its importance 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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We hold 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 communities in our school parish
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church

- those from other Christian denominations – 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate the mystery of God
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- respond to and celebrate life
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- enrich their religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding
- reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate full

All acts of worship in this school will:

- give glory to God
- be a quality educational activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character, including aspects of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole person
- 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.

How Collective Worship is organised at St John of Beverley School

Acts of Collective Worship and Class Liturgies take place in the afternoon with the exception of Praise Assembly which sometimes takes place:

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship focusing on Scripture readings linked to the Statements of Belief
Tuesday	Class Led by Teacher / Pupils
Wednesday	Hymn Singing
Thursday	Class based Liturgies, planned and led by pupils.
Friday	Whole School Praise Assembly
Liturgy	Individual Class Liturgies on a 4 week cycle / Class based Pupil led

Circle times happen in every class during the week.

Annual Mass and Liturgy Schedule

The children attend 10.45 am Mass and lead the readings and bidding prayers at St John of Beverley Church once every term.

As a whole school we (staff and children) attend Mass in church on Ash Wednesday unless the day falls during the half term holiday. Canon Grant, our Parish priest, celebrates the Leaver's Mass in school at the end of the academic year.

The annual schedule of class liturgies focusing on the Come and See topics follow the timetable suggested in the letter to parents at the start of each term. Liturgies for Harvest, Advent, Lent and Easter take place at the specified time.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned:

- following a structure linked to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See' topics, significant dates and the curriculum
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- with reference to the school's aims and policies
- to develop in pupils the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship themselves, rather than participating or contributing in a token way.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least 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.

Governors attend a variety of Liturgies throughout the year and complete evaluations after these visits.

Resources

See appendix 1

Eucharistic Celebrations

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion such as a Saint's day, Harvest Festival, or may relate to another significant celebration in the life of the school. All children are included in the celebration according to the stage of their faith development and are encouraged to participate. This may be as a reader, server, member of the choir, or as part of the offertory procession. Reference will be made to the Church's 'Directory of Masses for Children' as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist, will be the norm.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with some ritual and a variety of activities
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass, for example, 'The Lord be with you – and also with you'
- the liturgy of the word: age- appropriate stories from the Old and New Testaments, particularly the Gospels

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Eucharistic prayer and/or the Communion Rite

Policy Drafted by	Angela Nicholl
Adopted by the Governing Body	March 2018
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Appendix 1

Resources

Posters and drapes and other religious artefacts are stored in the resource area off the main hall. Artefacts and other resources are stored in the resource cupboard in the library. Books, including a class collection of Bibles are stored in the library. Teachers may also have a selection of books in their own classrooms. A selection of music CDs are kept in the hall beside the music centre.

All items for celebrating the Eucharist are kept in church and brought to school by Canon Grant when he comes to say Mass.

Appendix 2

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The co-ordinator will be responsible (with support from school and parishes) for the following:

- formulating a 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 the religious and educational needs of all who participate are considered and that it is rooted in the principles of the directory of Masses With Children
- organising themes for worship
- assisting the governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- observing, on occasions, acts of Collective Worship led by other members of staff
- informing the governing body 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 staff and governors regarding matters of development and/or concern
- acting as a consultant to colleagues
- encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- informing newly-appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- communicating with parents, governors and parish community
- liaison with Parish Priest
- liaison with the Diocesan Education Service

Professional Development/ on-going formation

- leading and organising in-service training and on-going formation for Collective Worship
- attending appropriate in-service training courses and reporting back
- keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- evaluation of existing resources
- developing resources available for Collective Worship, including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, posters and new/relevant books.