



## St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*In our school we recognise Jesus at the heart of all we do.  
Our school is a happy and safe place where everyone is challenged to do their very best  
in both work and play.  
Our family community includes home, school, parish and local neighbourhood.  
As children of God we value, respect and love each other and celebrate our differences.  
We say sorry, support and forgive each other as Jesus showed us.  
We welcome and support those in need.*

#### THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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, 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.

#### 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 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.

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. As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion". In this school, as with any academy, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it including:

- 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 another faith background.

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.

### **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 which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

### **PRINCIPLES**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God via the Trinity
- 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 appropriately paced - 5-10 mins for Key Stage 1 and approx. 10 mins for Key Stage 2.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Be organised and designed by the children using the Gather, Word, Response, Mission structure suggested by Shrewsbury Diocese.

## WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TIMETABLE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school Assembly- led by Head/Deputy	Collective Worship in class			
		Class assembly		Gold Award Celebration Assembly

We also have special assemblies/liturgies for CAFOD family Fast day, Peace One Day, Crowning of Mary and Mission Together throughout the year.

## PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Scripture is the main focus of most acts of worship.

Acts of Worship:

- follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' significant dates and the curriculum. There is a whole school collective worship planner (c/f separate document) which sets out the themes for each week. These also include a focus on British Values.
- refers to school aims and policies.
- Be flexible to respond to changing situations in school and the wider community.
- Develop skills in children, which will enable them to prepare and organise worship in a meaningful and positive way.

## RECORDING

Collective Worship is recorded in a variety of ways through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and videos. Each class has their

own collective worship box and keeps a record of prayer sessions in a class prayer book which contains some examples of work and planning sheets.

## **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.

## **RESOURCES**

There is a very comprehensive list of resources in the Subject Leader's File. Resources are spread between Staff Room, Library, and Head's Office. Music, and materials needed for class prayer areas are kept in the store room on the Year 5/6 corridor.

## **RETREATS**

- Year 6 have an annual residential retreat to Pantenion Hall. During this time, they prepare for transition to High School. The children reflect on their past experiences and look forward to new opportunities. They come together at the end of the day having prepared various sessions which then forms an act of worship.
- Staff attend Bi-annual RE and Retreat/Reflection Days within the Wythenshawe Catholic Cluster.
- Every year KS2 visit the Marist Centre for a day's retreat on a chosen theme.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

The Sacramental Programme takes place in the Parish. The school contributes through curriculum R.E., support through displays, and helping the children to write prayers for the Mass of Enrolment, First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion masses.

We gather together as a whole school for the celebration of Mass at the beginning and end of each term, and to celebrate feast days. Masses can take place in school or by attending St. Elizabeth's Church. We aim to ensure through this act of collective worship that children actively participate.

In addition, we celebrate class masses which are usually on a termly basis. Class masses provide the opportunity for each class to prepare and present their own class mass, children are involved in presenting the readings, prayers, and offertory procession. Children from Years 5 and 6 are chosen to serve on the altar.

We are also keen that these Collective Worship opportunities are shared with our families and parish community. Dates of masses are sent to parents and placed within the parish newsletter.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Key Stage 1**

Occasional Liturgies reflecting the Mass and or Liturgy of the Word

### **Key Stage 2**

Occasional Liturgies reflecting the Mass and or Liturgy of the Word which may include Eucharistic prayers or Communion Rite.

### **Liturgical Year**

- During Advent we gather together each morning, to light the advent wreath and open the Advent Calendar Display. This contains a thought for the day or a task for the children to complete. Readings are presented by the children. At the end of the Advent season we celebrate with a whole school mass.
- A penitential service in school is attended by Key Stage 2 children during Advent and Lent. Again, the children actively participate in the readings, prayers and singing.
- The Christmas story is traditionally retold in the nativity play performed by the children in our Foundation Stage. The meaning of Christmas is also explored through the adaptations performed by the children in key stage 1 and key stage 2.
- During Lent time is taken to reflect upon our own lives and the needs of others, this theme is reflected in all assemblies during Lent. During Holy Week we set aside time to reflect upon the Passion of Christ. This has been reflected through whole school assemblies each morning during Holy Week with classes joining together to retell the events in a very poignant way. The conclusion to the term ends with a Passion mass.
- Year 6 lead a Stations of the Cross Assembly which is another opportunity for our children to understand the events of Holy Week whilst at the same time making links and asking questions of the relevance of this story for our lives today.
- The joy of the Risen Christ is celebrated at the beginning of the Summer term with an Easter Mass. The theme of rejoice is reflected in the readings and prayers in both this whole school mass and class acts of collective worship.
- During May and October special devotion is given to Our Lady. We also hold a Rosary assembly and a crowning of Our Lady.

## **ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is the RE Co-ordinator, who will be responsible for ensuring Collective Worship:

- Forms part of the RE action plan.
- Ensures a written policy for Collective Worship exists.
- Is appropriate to the age, ability and family backgrounds of the children.
- Takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Is organised into themes for worship.
- Is carried out in accordance with the school's legal responsibilities for Collective Worship.

The Co-ordinator will ensure that:

- Planning, recording monitoring and evaluation are effectively developed.
- Positive links and attitudes are maintained between parents, chaplain, parish, governors and diocese.
- Appropriate courses and training are attended and the staff are lead and organised for in-service training and updates on developments and content.
- Resources are evaluated and made available for Collective Worship.

## **ROLE OF THE CHAPLAIN**

The chaplain will work within the collective worship framework of St. Elizabeth's. They will provide small group collective worship experiences and develop the independent collective worship skills of groups of children so that they are more able to develop prayerful, spiritual sessions for themselves and others.

The chaplains will also provide opportunities for staff and the community to come together in prayer.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored and reviewed by the RE Co-ordinator, whole school staff and governors every two years. The RE link Governor in particular will play a most important role.

**Reviewed March 2017**