



St John's Catholic Primary School
BATH

'For everyone to shine, celebrate and grow'

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Head Teacher: Mrs A Bennett

.....Policy 2018/21

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 a relationship with the Father, 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. 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.

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 head teacher.

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 who 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 and 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 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 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
- 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 kept small and wherever possible help to personalise the experience

- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

In our school, the daily act of Collective Worship takes place at the beginning of the school day. The children gather together on a Monday this act of Worship is incorporated into the morning assembly..

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'God Matters', significant dates, and the wider curriculum. Scripture will be the focus of 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.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a Liturgical Rota both class and staff/visitor assemblies.
- Through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- PowerPoint presentations

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.

Eucharist

- Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion or reflect the season of the Liturgical year.
- These Masses are a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. Mass is celebrated either in school or one of our Parishes, St John's Catholic Church, St Alphege's Catholic Church, St Peter and St Paul's or St Dunstan's. The staff and children prepare the music, prayers and readings for these celebrations.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

This role will be undertaken by the R.E. co-ordinator for the school alongside the school Chaplain.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship and is to be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Signed: _____

Chair of Governors: _____

Reviewed: 23rd January 2018

Due Review: 23rd January 2021