



St Mary's Catholic First School **Collective Worship Policy**



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership

Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust
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Signed by Chair	
Statutory Policy	No
Required on Website	No
Review Period	3 Years
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Reviewed by	S Oakes

St. Mary's Catholic First School Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement- We love, We learn, We live as followers of Jesus'

To shape children's latent interest and enthusiasm of the world around them underpinned by the curriculum taught in our first school. Through Christ, in partnership and with service and witness at our core we seek to educate the whole person, developing each member of the school community, influencing their daily lives and unlocking their abilities and talents, so that all can live fully and make a valued contribution to the well-being of others and the wider world.

Children are recognised for living out and demonstrating any of St. Mary's core mission values. Each week children who have demonstrated these values are celebrated in the Celebration Assembly.

'We love'-To be awarded this a child will have demonstrated an act of kindness to others e.g. helping a friend who has fallen over, inviting others to play, compromising in a game etc.

'We learn'-To be awarded this a child has demonstrated that they have made a concerted effort in their learning and/or the learning of others e.g. giving a class/school presentation, improving a piece of work, showing resilience etc.

'We live'-To be awarded this a child has demonstrated that they have participated fully in extra-curricular activities either within or outside of school (including charitable events) e.g. running club, swimming badges, charity run etc.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective 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.

'The celebration of Catholic Celebration of the Word and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St. Mary's Catholic First School

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 whom school may be their first and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St. Mary's Catholic First School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 St. Mary's First School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Structuring a collective act of worship

Collective Worship is planned to follow a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Gather	Setting the scene. Introducing the theme. Ensuring that the environment is conducive to prayer.
Listen	This time provides the main content for the act of collective worship. Scripture or the Tradition of the Church is the focus. This time can be both evangelistic and catechetical.
Respond	Worship is an opportunity for students to respond to God about what they have seen or heard. It is an opportunity for a variety of prayer styles and prayer traditions of the Church to be explored.
Sending Forth	The 'Witness' part is an opportunity for the students to put into practice what they have heard, seen or prayed in some way outside of the context of the collective act of worship. It is an opportunity for students to personally deepen their faith, or share their faith with others.

Organisation of Collective Worship at St. Mary's First School

Each week the starts with the Head teacher leading a whole school collective worship based on a specific prayer focus for the week. At the start of each term, classes have dedicated Celebration of the Word planning time based around a key central themes. In groups, pupils in each class plan their own pupil-led Celebration of the Word in readiness to celebrate with their peers on a weekly basis during the timetabled liturgical prayer slot each Wednesday morning.

Weekly					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
AM	Prayer Journal Daily (Creative Prayer)				
	Whole school Celebration of the Word (20 mins)	Class Collective Worship (5-10 mins)	Pupil-led (7 Planned) Celebration of the Word (15 mins)	Class Collective Worship (5-10 mins)	Whole school Celebration of the Word. Wednesday Word Focus/Celebration Assembly (20 mins)
	Prayer before Lunch				
PM	Class collective Worship (5-10 mins)				
	School Prayer-how we will lead the mission (Vision & values)	Holding Prayer	Meditation	Hymn Practice	Holding Prayer
	Home Time Prayers				
Termly					
<p>Mass celebrated at St. Mary's church (at least twice a term) for each class.</p> <p>Class celebration of the Word-parents invited.</p> <p>Mass at significant liturgical events of the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lent/Easter • Advent • Pentecost • New beginnings (end of year) 					
Annually					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Mass (St. Mary's Church-all invited) • Whole school Celebration of the Word-planned & led by each class (St. Mary's School hall-all invited) • Christingle Advent service (St. Mary's catholic Church-all invited) • Holy days of obligation: Ash Wednesday Mass/Ascension Thursday • Leavers Mass (St. Mary's Church-all invited) 					

Whole school assemblies are led by the Head Teacher or senior staff on a Monday each week. They are a whole school collective worship-Celebration of the Word, usually based on the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday or other key liturgical themes.

Morning Collective Worship

Teachers use tranquil music to set a calm, prayerful atmosphere as pupils enter class each morning and use their prayer Journals as a focus to start each day. Collective worship happens every day after registration, it is lead and prepared by the teacher with input from pupils. Using the timetable above as a guide, staff ensure they utilise many different forms of prayer.

Class Celebration of the Word

Each class prepares and holds a class Celebration of the Word each week. Children plan in small groups and use the four-part format for Collective Worship also choosing music, reflective responses, artefacts and liturgical colours. In addition, each class also prepares a whole school Celebration of the Word once a year in the school hall. All pupil, parents, parishioners and governors are invited to this.

Class Masses

Each class celebrates a class mass in St. Mary's Catholic Church. The mass is led by our parish priest. The children plan aspects of the mass and take part in the readings and lead prayers.

School Masses

Masses are organised to celebrate special occasions and holy days of obligation. In Reception, a Welcome Mass is organised and celebrated as the children enter the school and a year 4 Leaver's Mass is organised for the end of the summer term in year 4. Parents, friends, parishioners and members of the local community are invited to attend both of these occasions. Whole school Masses also take place at key times of the year, including Christmas and Lent/Easter. We involve the children in the preparation of the Mass taking an active role in the reading, singing and playing of musical instruments.

Extra Services

Other services take place as and when required throughout the year for example, Ash Wednesday, Holy Days of Obligation and special retirement Masses. As arranged with the Parish Priest.

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Head teacher will plan and lead collective worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

- The Head Teacher and the Lead for RE and Catholic Life re responsible for writing and reviewing the policy.
- Governors and Head Teacher: To ensure the Collective Worship Policy is implemented and practised daily.
- Catholic Life Lead and Senior Staff: To oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy.
- Catholic Life Lead: To support, review, monitor and evaluate the practice of Collective Worship. To lead and support pupils and staff in the delivery of Collective Worship and other liturgical celebrations.

- Class teachers: Collective Worship is the responsibility of class teachers except when the whole school assemblies are taking place.
- All Staff: are responsible for encouraging pupil participation. It is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly or Collective Worship to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating an atmosphere conducive to prayer. It is the responsibility of every member of staff present in an assembly to support the importance of prayer by helping to create an atmosphere conducive to prayer. For example, directing the pupils into the assembly in an orderly and quiet manner; supervising pupils in assembly; taking an active part and leading by example. Teaching staff are also responsible for the delivery of prayers with their classes at the key points in the day; before and after lunch and at the end of the school day.

Recording

Whole school Collective Worship's are recorded in whole school Celebration of the Word book where parents are invited to give their thoughts on the celebration of the word. Each week, classes use their own floor books to evidence the pupil's planning and record this in the weekly class Celebration of the Word floor book.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of Collective Worship will be monitored regularly and evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils.

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Continuing Professional Development

- New staff and ITT induction sessions – Head of Catholic Life
- Sharing of best practice – observations / discussions / questionnaires
- Discussions with individuals, line managers
- Performance management Objectives

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

The Head teacher is the coordinator for Collective Worship. A model job description is also included in Appendix 1.

Policy Monitoring and Review

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

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the Head teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship.

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and Head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education.

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading.

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently.