



St Mary's Catholic First School

Collective Worship



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership

Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust
Company Registration Number 07890590

Signed by Chair	T Neeson
Statutory Policy	Yes
Required on Website	Yes
Review Period	February 21
Next Review Date	February 22
Reviewed by	J Gelson

St Mary's Catholic First School
Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement: St. Mary's Catholic First School ~ We love, We learn, We live.

This is what we are about:

- To tell the Christian story
- To try to be like Jesus
- To understand that we are all special, made to be like God
- To build a community which shows care and love
- To be fair, honest and forgiving towards each other
- To delight in living, learning and loving God...Together!

The school is committed to encouraging every child to develop fully with regard to his/her spiritual, moral, social, physical, economic, academic and personal qualities.

The aim is that all children will grow in self-confidence and become responsible and caring members of society.

We intend that our delivery of the curriculum reflects these aims, through continuous evaluation of all that is done in school.

This mission requires equality of opportunity and the co-operation of Governors, families and parish members to foster a Christian atmosphere and a caring Catholic Community.

To achieve these aims we endeavour to:

- Pray with and for each other.
- Show consideration and care for others.
- Foster friendliness and value, politeness, honesty and sharing.
- We also encourage children and staff to care for and appreciate their school environment.
- Encourage the children to become religiously literate.
- Promote a healthy safe lifestyle for pupils and staff.

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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies 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.

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 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 headteacher.

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.

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

Worship in St Mary's First School is more than just a legal requirement. It 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 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 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 Church.
- Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following 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.

Each term we have a Liturgy on Staff training day and each week we have Opening and Closing Prayers at Staff meeting.

The timetable of Collective Worship is attached.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has access to the recommended books to complement the Come and See programme as well as Liturgical resources for assemblies and liturgies.

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'

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

Mr Naughton and Mrs Gelson are the Collective Worship co-ordinators.

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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 two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Year Group:	Monitoring of Collective Worship	Date:
Focus		Comments
Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the children been involved in the planning? Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 		
Structure (If Liturgy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? How did children gather? Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? How did children respond to the Word? Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 		
Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child or adult led? Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 		
Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? Was it a prayerful experience? 		
Creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How creative was the Act of Worship? Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 		
Prayer Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 		
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 		
ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 		
Agreed areas for development		

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...