

Collective Worship Policy

Author/Person Responsible	Dawn Summers-Breeze
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Ratification Group	
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Related Policies	Pastoral RE Relationships and Sex Education Spiritual and Moral
Chair of Governor's Signature	<i>Diane Mason</i>

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 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. We acknowledge that parents have the right to withdraw their child if they wish and ask for this to be put in writing to the Headteacher.

In Holy Family School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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 whom 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 Holy Family School is more than just a legal requirement; it is an 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 an opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to deepen relationship with 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 develop a sense of awe and wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- to develop the skills of: reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy and meditation
- to pray together

Principles

All Acts of Worship in Holy Family 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 wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, the RE scheme (The Way, the Truth and the Life), the PSHE scheme (Jigsaw), significant dates in the liturgical year and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in 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.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place daily in each class throughout the day, this can be formal or informal and can be organised and led by the pupils. It also takes place formally each week:

Monday – whole school assembly led by the Head based on the gospel of the previous day or the Chaplaincy Team on a theme they are working on; during Advent and Lent there will be whole school reflections led by the pupils

Tuesday – whole school singing assembly led by the Music coordinator

Wednesday – KS1 assembly led by KS1 staff based on 'Twelve Baskets'

Thursday – KS2 assembly led by KS2 staff based on 'Twelve Baskets'

Friday – whole school celebration assembly led by the senior leadership team, or class assemblies led by pupils

Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos, etc

Monitoring and Evaluation

Over the academic year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the Chaplaincy Team and SLT 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

Resources are centrally kept in St Agnes' Room and the Head's Office and are regularly updated.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

There is an annual retreat for Y4 pupils who join with other schools from the Emmaus Partnership for this day. There is an annual retreat for the Y6 to reflect on their time at Holy Family School and to look forward to their future. There are also, from time to time, whole school reflection days, for example, the Nativity day in Advent and the Lenten Trail in Lent.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in Holy Family School will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At Foundation Stage and Year 1 worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word.
- Each class will celebrate an annual class liturgy

From Year 2 upwards worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.
- Each class will celebrate an annual class mass

Whole school worship includes:

- Mass celebrated in school or church at the beginning and the end of each term (old terms) and at the church on Holy Days
- Crowning of Mary service in May

- Other services throughout the year identified by staff or pupils
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Members of the school community – parents, governors, parishioners – are invited and are always welcome to attend our School masses and services.

Co-ordination of Collective Worship

The Lead for Collective Worship is Mrs Dawn Summers-Breeze.

The role of the Co-ordinator:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that when appropriate there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may be part of the School development plan
- Ensuring Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for worship
- Assisting the governors and Senior Leaders to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, acts of Collective Worship
- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors regarding matters of concern and development
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly qualified staff of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors, and the parish community
- Liaison with the Parish Priest
- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for collective worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for collective worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

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

Signed Dawn Summers-Breeze
Reviewed: October 2019
Next review date: October 2020

