

Holy Family School

Policy for Collective Worship

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.

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 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 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 community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.
- To develop the skills of:
 - ✓ Reverence
 - ✓ Contemplation
 - ✓ Reflection
 - ✓ Interpretation
 - ✓ Empathy
 - ✓ Meditation

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.³
- Celebrations will:
appropriately paced
be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Weekly Collective Worship

Monday- Class based (5 minutes)

Tuesday Whole school Headteacher led

Wednesday Key Stage. Teacher led

Thursday Key Stage. Teacher led.

Friday Whole School Headteacher/Deputy head

These liturgies do not take place when there are school celebrations marking Holy Days or annual events in the school year.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates 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.
- Each class will nominate Liturgy Leaders to support the planning of liturgy for their own year group. Year 6 will deliver liturgy for all other classes on a regular basis.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

Head, Heart, Hands

Acts of worship will follow a 'Head, Heart, Hands' format

- A theme is chosen
- Children will listen to and reflect on a piece of scripture (head)
- Children will consider how the scripture makes them feel (heart)
- The children will 'go forth' with a mission (hands)

In other words -

- **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- **God's word** – most liturgies will centre around at least one text from the Bible. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary whenever possible.
- **Respond**- The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer.

- **Go Forth-** Giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the Liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.
- **We will remember** – the children have a focus for the next session.

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.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator 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. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school on an annual basis.

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