



# **Collective Worship Policy**

## **St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School.**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Introduction:**

1. This statement on collective worship is to be read in conjunction with the mission statement, the school's aims and objectives and the school's Religious Education Handbook.
2. The statement reflects the opinions of the whole teaching staff and has full support from the governing body.
3. We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with him, made possible through the work, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Legal requirements:**

1. We recognise that St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School has a statutory obligation to provide collective acts of worship.
2. 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.
3. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

#### **Aims:**

1. We endeavour to provide opportunities for the children to participate in celebrations, both in church and in school, as well as in the wider community. The children will experience different elements of liturgy, such as, drama, music, song, dance, prayer, silence and reflection.
2. Collective worship will aim to challenge and enrich the religious experience of children and staff, both individually and communally and encourage a mature response. There will be opportunities for quiet reflection during assemblies or classroom worship.
3. We believe that our collective worship aims to provide opportunities to reflect on spiritual and moral issues, to explore own beliefs, experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.

### **Implementation of the policy:**

The policy is implemented through various types of liturgical celebrations, some of which are sacramental. Other celebrations include 'Rejoice' assemblies, class assemblies, other assemblies and classroom worship.

### **Objectives:**

- During the school year, the children will experience celebrations in their class group, (through; whole school services/masses, classroom worship – both led by the children.) in school, (in assemblies and paraliturgy), in church, (mass, feast days, may procession, walking day, the sacramental programme), and in the wider context as the opportunities arise.
- Parents, families and friends of the school are invited to share in some of our celebrations. For example, school Christmas and Easter productions, Masses and services, May procession and other sacramental celebrations.
- Parents, friends of the school and parishioners are invited to take a weekly newsletter provided by the school informing them of any events in the school. These are made available at the back of the parish church and in school.
- Each term there is an RE newsletter and a class curriculum overview, made available on the school website. The Wednesday Word is also available for children and families.

### **The school in the community:**

Our school benefits from close relationships with our parish. We have people from the parish community, who become prayer sponsors for the children taking part in the sacramental programmes.

Children attend Mass with their 'prayer buddy' class on agreed Tuesdays, in St. Oswald's Church.

Children are given the opportunity to raise money for 'Cafod' and 'Nugent care' through the 'Good Shepherd' as well as other charity work. Our Year 5 children take part in a celebratory Mass at the Liverpool Cathedral for 'Good Shepherd', alongside all the other school's involved in the archdiocese.

We have links with 'Mission Together' and raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves in countries around the world, e.g. Cambodia and Malawi, for "Children helping Children." The children are given 'Missio' red boxes throughout Lent to make links and receive contributions from home.

We have an annual 'Day of Many Colours' linked with Mission Together, for further support, this links with our Year 4 Sacramental children's celebration, usually held on the Friday closest to 29<sup>th</sup> June.

The children predominantly in Year 6, with some Year 5 children, are also members of the 'Mini Vinnies' (Primary school SVP). The group organise events in the school, such as contributions for the local 'Food bank' and 'Operation Christmas'.

### **The planning, content and delivery and recording of Collective Worship:**

Collective worship is planned using **Gather, Listen, Respond & Go Forth** as the basis for collective worship:

- Following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all 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 just participating or contributing.
- There is a rota of 'Come and See' topics for rejoice assemblies.

### **When Collective Worship will take place:**

- Prayers at the beginning and end of the day, take place in each class, every day.
- Prayers of thanks before and after meals.
- Monday afternoon – Whole school assembly takes place in the hall.
- Tuesday – Key Stage 1 and 2 classroom collective worship.
- Wednesday – Key Stage 2 assembly in the hall. (Come and See focus.)
- Wednesday – Key Stage 1, classroom collective worship.
- Thursday afternoon – Celebration assembly.
- Thursday – Key Stage 1 and 2 classroom collective worship.
- Friday – Key Stage 2, classroom collective worship.
- Friday afternoon – Key Stage 1 assembly in the hall. (Come and See focus.)
- Tuesday – two classes may attend Mass (Y6 & Rec / Y5 & Y1 / Y 3 & Y2 / Y4).
- Special class Masses take place, throughout the year, in the children's classrooms.

(All Mass dates are set with the Parish Priest and the RE coordinators at the beginning of each term).

### **The Sacramental Programme:**

Our sacramental programme presents an opportunity to develop the partnership between parish, home and school, as we work together towards a shared, deeper understanding of our faith.

In the first instance, the parents of the year 4 are invited to a meeting to discuss the initial stages of the sacramental programme. They are shown an introductory DVD provided by the archdiocese.

The children work in groups and with their parents, through booklets based on the archdiocese booklets either in the Church or the school hall.

The programme used for the sacramental preparation of Reconciliation and Eucharist is based on “With You Always” this is used alongside the “Come and See” scheme.

The children are given worksheets for their sacramental preparation to take home and share further with their parents and families. They are then offered up at celebration Masses for the children receiving the Sacraments.

The children are given a prayer sponsor from the parish community and a display is put up at the back of church

### **Resources:**

There is a communal resource area for collective worship in the school. These resources include;

- 3x files of age appropriate scripture, for the children to use in the ‘Listen’ element (EYFS & KS 1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2).
- Focus objects: hearts, pebbles, flickering LED Candles, pictures, cloths.
- Prayer books, hymn books, God’s Story, Bible.

Each classrooms has:

- Cd player and a reflective Cd to play. (Cd’s are swapped with other classes to ensure some variety.)
- Michael Burland CD of music appropriate to the year group.
- Candles (Flickering LED lights for safety reasons)
- God’s Story and the Church’s Story are in each class (-Relevant to the appropriate age group.)
- Various collective worship focus objects: heart, pebbles, lights, pictures, cloths.
- Crucifix

### **Prayer Bags:**

During different times of the Church’s liturgical year, there are Home/School links for collective worship.

Prayer bags are made up for each class during Lent, Advent and Ordinary Time. This allows children to have some reflective, prayer time with their families. The children can choose to evidence their special time in a class book, by doing some of the suggested activities, sticking in a photograph or writing their own prayer and adding it to the book. The prayer bags are passed around the class so each child/family gets a turn to take it home. The prayer bags, contain objects the children can use to set up their own collective worship display at home, with different focuses for each season.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review:**

This policy will be monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinators and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and governors every two years. The foundation governors in particular will play a most important role.

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