



Love, Learn, Respect and Appreciate

Collective Worship Policy

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Approved by	Board of Governors	September 2023
Next Review Due	October 2025	

Collective Worship Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

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.

The statement reflects the opinions of the whole teaching staff and has full support from the Governing Body.

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.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We recognise that St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School has a statutory obligation to provide collective acts of worship.

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.

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.

3. AIMS

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.

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.

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.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

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 para-liturgy), 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. Paper copies are made available at the back of the parish church and at the school office and it is also available through 'OurSchoolApp' and on the school website.
- Also available on the school website each term is an RE newsletter and each half term a class curriculum overview.
- The Wednesday Word is also available for children and families each week to share.

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 Tuesday morning, with the parish, in St. Oswald's Church.

Prayer buddy classes also share a prayer and liturgy time, on the last Friday of the month in school. This can take place in the prayer garden, classroom or school hall.

Children are given the opportunity to raise money for 'Cafod', Mary's Meals and 'Nugent care' through the 'Good Shepherd' as well as other charity work. Our Year 5 children or the Mini Vinnies group 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.” Each class is 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 29th June.

Some of the Year 5 and 6 children, are 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 Mini Vinnies also work with our local feeder high school’s Youth SVP, to organise an afternoon tea/Bingo for some of our senior parishioners.

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 throughout the year, which parents/carers, grandparents and community are welcome to attend. They are asked to write a comment about their experience before they leave.

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 morning – Whole School Assembly takes place in the hall.
- Tuesday – Key Stage 1 and 2 Classroom Collective Worship.
- Wednesday 10.10am – Key Stage 2 Assembly in the hall.
- Wednesday 2.45pm – Key Stage 1 Assembly in the hall.
- Thursday morning – Celebration Assembly.
- Thursday – Key Stage 1 and 2 Classroom Collective Worship.
- Friday – Key Stage 1 and 2 Classroom Collective Worship.
- Tuesday – two buddy classes may attend Mass (Y6 & Rec / Y5 & Y1 / Y3 & Y2 / Y4).
- Special class Masses take place, throughout the year, this can take place in the children’s classrooms, the prayer garden or the school hall.

(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 with their parents, through booklets, based on the archdiocese booklets at home after a 'Preparation Mass' in Church at the weekend with Fr Dave and school helpers.

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. A white sash, which has been embroidered with the symbols of Christianity, by a group of the parishioners, is also given to each child receiving the sacraments. A display is put up at the back of church.

5. 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 reflective Cds to play.
- John Burland CDs of music appropriate to the year group.
- Collective Worship table with a white table cloth and different cloths which represent the liturgical colours of the church (red/green/purple).
- 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 a different focus for each season.

6. POLICY MONITORING & 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.