



## St. John's Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### **The nature of Collective Worship**

Christ and the Gospel values are at the centre of all we do.

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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness to the Holy Spirit.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, 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 St. John's Catholic Primary School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship takes place rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher and Religious Education subject leader.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School.**

Worship in St. John's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We aim to educate pupils to experience worship and liturgy but it must be a gradual process that seeks to involve them actively in ways suited to their age and stage of personal development.

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.

### **The aims of Collective Worship**

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when referring to 'Collective Worship' in schools. Collective Worship is the term used in legislation but in the Catholic context the terms 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are more familiar



We believe that Collective Worship at St. John's School aims to provide the 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 develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich the 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 take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

### **Principles**

#### **All Acts of Worship will:**

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- 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.

#### **All liturgies will include:**

- Gathering
- Listening
- Responding
- Going Forth



## Timetabled Acts of Worship

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Prayer and liturgy led by the headteacher. Themes will be related to the liturgical year, sacramental programmes and various faith traditions. There is also a link to school values and British Values.   |
| Tuesday   | KS2 teacher-led assemblies which follow the theme for the week on the planning document. They could celebrate the work taught in the classrooms or link to the theme in Come and See if appropriate. A short liturgy is always included.<br>KS1 liturgy in class |
| Wednesday | Liturgy led by AHT or DHT with singing. The children will learn new songs and worship through music. The songs will be linked to liturgical themes and explained. Gather, Listen, Respond and Send forth will be followed as a format for the assembly.          |
| Thursday  | KS1 teacher-led assemblies which follow the theme for the week on the planning document. They could celebrate the work taught in the classrooms or link to the theme in Come and See if appropriate. A short liturgy is always included.<br>KS2 liturgy in class |
| Friday    | Whole school assembly organised and delivered by the headteacher. A short liturgy (liturgical calendar, C&S, EPR) leads into a celebration of each week's achievements.  |

Assemblies are an experience of Worship and can be presented in a variety of forms. They are prayerful and encourage openness to God. All assemblies begin with the Sign of the Cross, lighting of a candle and include some element of prayer, scripture and praise.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a half termly liturgy/assembly planner
- Through displays, prayer, photographs, PowerPoints, class books and Worship Leader file.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all the pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

### **Resources**

Each class teacher is expected to resource their class 'Holy Corner' with appropriate key words and artefacts relating to the current topic.

Other resources which are available to the whole school at all times are kept in the RE cupboards in the school hall.

Resources are available for class or whole school masses and liturgies such as candles, chalices, purificators etc.

### **Eucharist**



Eucharistic celebrations in school will be celebrated by the whole school in Evangelist Catholic Church

highlight a special occasion and will be held in the school hall or at St. John the

We aim to have at least two whole school masses per term these include:

- Welcome Mass for all those who are new to the school – September
- All Saint's Mass
- Advent Mass
- Mass to celebrate St John's Feast day -
- Mass of the Risen Christ
- First Communion Mass in School June
- SS Peter and Paul Mass
- Leavers Mass – July

**At Key Stage 1 worship includes:**

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

**At Key Stage 2 worship includes:**

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship
- opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship



Appendix 1

## Worship Planning Sheet

### **Gathering together**

*Environment [mood, seating, etc.]*

*Focus:*

*Music:*

*Introduction*

### **The Word of God**



### **Action / Response to the Word**

*A ritual or movement that fits the theme in which everyone can join (e.g. Shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, reflection etc.)*

### **Mission / Going forth**

*The sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.*

### **Resources**



## Appendix 2

### Prayer Experiences

Pupils are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, which are developed in ways which are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

| Type:                         | Example:  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Praying the psalms            | <i>'I thank you for the wonder of my being' [Psalm 139]</i>                               |
| Traditional prayers           | <i>Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary</i>                                      |
| Repetitive prayer [mantra]    | <i>'Jesus, I love you', repeated several times, slowly</i>                                |
| Meditation                    | <i>Scripture reflection with use of imagination</i>                                       |
| Bodily prayer                 | <i>raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting</i>                             |
| Prayer of the heart           | <i>stillness to listen to God: 'Be still and know that I am God.'</i>                     |
| Contemplation                 | <i>looking at trees, a sunset, an icon etc.</i>   |
| Gestures                      | <i>the sign of the cross, the sign of peace</i>   |
| Hymns                         | <i>traditional and modern hymns</i>   |
| Music                         | <i>listening to quiet, reflective music</i>   |
| Litanies                      | <i>For all creation: Thanks be to God</i>   |
| Processions                   | <i>Gospel procession with sung 'alleluia'</i>   |
| Prayer services and liturgies | <i>formal and spontaneous prayer using holy water, candles, incense and other symbols</i> |
| Celebrations                  | <i>prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done</i>                        |

### Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and Religious Education Subject leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.