



St. Peter's  
Catholic  
Primary School

# ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Policy for Collective Worship

Date Policy Last Reviewed: September 2021

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of  
\_\_\_\_\_ Governors \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MISSION STATEMENT

With Christ at the heart of all we do we promote a community where every individual is; Valued and respected,  
Listened to and loved,  
Proud to belong,

Knowing that we are all unique individuals who show care and consideration and acceptance of others.

We encourage each other to aim high and achieve in a supportive and caring environment whilst creating treasured memories and values which stay with us for life.

We aim to fulfil the words of Jesus:

‘A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’

John 13:34

*‘To grow gently in the love of God’*

## **THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that Christian worship in our school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in work and action, to take 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 collective 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 different. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be clear.

The act of worship is not part of curricular time, including RE

As this is a Voluntary Aided School the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

## **THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF THE 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 at St. Peter's is not just a legal requirement, it is an integral part of who we are and central to our tradition as a Catholic school.

## **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 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 as a means of developing spirituality
- To reinforce positive attitudes.
- To participate fully.
- To take time out to 'wonder at'. 'to come to terms with', 'to give worth to'.

## **PRINCIPLES**

All acts of worship in this 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
- Give children an opportunity to develop their understanding of the liturgical year

In order to do this, celebrations will

- Be a purposeful and personalized experience.
- Be timely and appropriately paced, mindful of the age of the children.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

## **ORGANISATION**

**Monday** Whole school Gospel theme (hall)

**Tuesday** Class based

**Wednesday** Whole school hymn practice /Key Stage/ Class Liturgy (hall)

**Thursday** Class based

**Friday** Class based/ whole school assembly

Liturgies and services are also held on specific occasions throughout the liturgical year. For the majority of these we are joined by clergy from one of our Parishes. We also take the children out of school, when possible, to participate in worship at St. Peter's Church. We join with the parish community when these take place. For all our liturgies in school our community and parish members are welcome to school to join us.

Mass is celebrated regularly to commemorate Holy Days of obligation and also significant events in the school year such as the Beginning of the Year and Harvest.

## **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 acts of worship.
- Involving consultation with pupils
- 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 specific way.

## **RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The school's provision of worship is evaluated on an ongoing basis to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether the pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The chaplaincy team meet regularly with the Re Co coordinator to develop a sense of pupil voice and to lead on developing collective worship skills within their classes.

## **RESOURCES**

The resources for Collective Worship are part of the general collection held in the RE area. Guidance on usage is available from the RE Co-ordinator.

## **VOLUNTARY WORSHIP**

- Prayer services are held at certain times of the year during lunch.
- A decade of the Rosary in October and May in the upper room.
- Prayer time during Lent and Advent in the upper room.
- At other times the children are able to access the upper room and prayer garden, during their breaks and lunchtimes. This is for private prayer and contemplation. They are also invited to write any special prayers and leave them on the tree there.

### **Eucharist**

The First Communion candidates participate in a special way at their Parish Masses during their year of preparation. Some children who are in the year group, but who are not preparing for their First Communion also join in, and are made very welcome.

### **Review**

This policy is to be reviewed by the staff and governors every two years.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE:**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents are made aware of the fact that it is not always confined to timetabled slots, but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured and which respond to needs as they arise.

*SG November 2021*