



BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Religious Education and Collective Worship policy

Religious Education at Bishop Challoner Catholic College

The Religious Education Department aims to be central to the spiritual expression of Bishop Challoner as a Catholic school. At Bishop Challoner we are concerned about the growth of the whole person and as such the Religious Education Department plays a fundamental role in the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

The curriculum

Religious Education is taught throughout the school and is based on the Curriculum Directory for Religious Education. This scheme of work is designed to provide an engaging, meaningful and effective way to draw young people into an encounter with Catholic belief and faith. The process is designed to draw young people into a personal exploration of their own beliefs and values but in such a way that draws upon the living tradition of the Catholic Church in order to help develop, challenge and support the Christian human development of the individual.

No assumptions are made about the faith commitment of pupils; instead they are given an opportunity to question and reflect upon ultimate and other significant questions of our time. The process begins with an open consideration of the Question, students considering their own initial responses are then brought into a dialogue or encounter with the Christian response to these questions. The scheme aims to provide a young person with a genuine encounter with Christian belief which impacts upon their world view and is not just 'learning about' religion. It also attempts to get away from the assumption that our pupils are necessarily practising Catholics.

Schemes of work for key stages 3-5 encompass the following features.....

- Opportunity to learn and reflect on Catholic teaching.
- To compare and contrast this to alternative Christian thinking.
- To reflect on the views of other world religions.
- To reflect on secular and atheist viewpoints.
- To form their own personal opinion on issues, showing a balanced opinion that is tolerant to all viewpoints.

Collective worship

Catholic worship here as in all Catholic schools is concerned with ensuring that a child's or young person's journey into adulthood should also be a journey of faith, a journey which recognises that true justice, peace and human freedom require, first and foremost, respect for the dignity of human life.

Our aim is to attend to the spiritual needs of children and young people as a constant priority. The value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Worship in Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School is more than a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is fully underpinned by the Mission Statement.

Collective worship at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School should be: inclusive; educational; spiritual; moral; social and cultural.

Collective worship should take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community of the 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 traditions.

Legal requirements

There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This may take place at any time during the school day and could be a single act of worship for the whole school, or separate acts of worship in school groups.

To fulfil this requirement, collective worship may take the form of....

- Prayers during form time
- Prayers during lesson
- Form group act of worship
- Year group act of worship
- Whole school act of worship
- Staff prayer
- Retreats
- Assemblies

The aims of collective worship

We believe that collective worship in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationship with God. It will offer an opportunity to:

- Contemplate the mystery of God
- Unite our worshipping Eucharistic Community
- Develop skills of: reverence; contemplation; reflection; interpretation; empathy; meditation and listening, to enable our relationship with God to be deepened.
- Full participation in our faith will allow us to:
- Grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding
- Grow in understanding of our living faith traditions
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Jesus Christ
- Examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys
- Develop skills of prayer

In Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, the usual response to the requirement is as follows:

- Each fortnight every year group attends one assembly on a designated day.
- In tutor time, morning and evening, every tutor is required to enable prayer with their tutor group, for which prayers are provided and some guidance given to tutors about creating a place for prayer and leading prayer. This constitutes an act of worship (and is expected to happen) and it is monitored in school in a variety of ways.
- In addition, on special occasions, extra assemblies may occur to respond to special school or global events.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for collective worship
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer

- Impact on pupils and members of the school community
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship

All members of staff are expected to fully support, implement and enable this school policy. Help and training are offered to tutors.