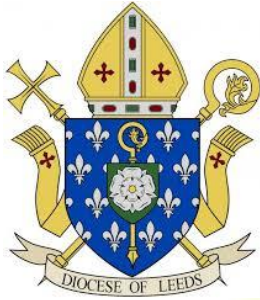




# CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS

## Collective Worship Policy



<b>Written</b>	January 2024 <i>(Based on the Diocesan model Collective Worship Policy)</i>		
<b>Reviewed and Approved by</b>	Full Governing Body	<b>Meeting Date</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Review cycle</b>	Bi-annually unless any changes are required prior to this		
<b>Next review</b>	January 2026		



# CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Mission Statement

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School exists to provide educational and spiritual opportunities through which every member of its community may be encouraged to strive for excellence and be helped towards developing those talents given to them by God.

## Aims

Within Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, we aim to provide a safe, happy and caring environment in which individuals have the opportunity to develop their spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, social and physical potential.

We aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes, which will enable them to take their full place in the community and add to their success in life.

We aim to foster within the pupils a sense of self-respect, esteem and motivation, responsibility and consideration for others and the environment, and to help our pupils to become more spiritually aware by encouraging a love of God and love of one another. ***"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself."*** (Luke 10:27)

We aim to provide equal opportunities for all.



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## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Diocesan Statement on Collective Worship**

It is the responsibility of every Catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which -

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience.
- is educative.
- is within our Catholic tradition.

The purpose of these experiences is -

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world.

Collective Worship in our schools will be

- properly planned.
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

to ensure that the Collective Worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.



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## The Nature of Collective Worship

As a community, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School believes that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>



## Legal Requirements

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School acknowledges the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.<sup>2</sup> This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. The school understands that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.



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

The school endorses 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 in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School believes that Collective Worship 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 to 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 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.'



# CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## 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 pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.<sup>3</sup>

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience.
- Be short and appropriately paced, (Children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e. 5-6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes for Key Stage 2).
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School Collective Worship is organised in the following way.

### (a) Whole School

The whole school meets to worship once a week. Class teachers, year groups and the Head Teacher prepare the Collective Worship on a rota basis. During special seasons such as Advent and Lent, extra Collective Worship are planned to enhance the liturgical experience of the pupils, for example the events of Holy Week.

Advent and Lent Penitential services are arranged for Years three to six, with the opportunity for pupils to reflect on their relationship with God. Pupils can also experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation during these services. A non-sacramental service is arranged for Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage.

Whole school Masses in church are planned as appropriate with different year groups taking responsibility for preparation.

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<sup>3</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.



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## **(b) Key Stages**

Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage meet for Collective Worship. Class teachers prepare these worships on a rota basis.

Key Stage 2 meets for Collective Worship. Class teachers prepare these worships on a rota basis.

## **(c) Class Groups**

On the days when there is no key stage or whole school Collective Worship, each class arranges its own Collective Worship which is either staff led or pupil led.

In addition, the school holds a weekly whole school celebration assembly to acknowledge the pupils' good work and other aspects of school life. This begins with a quiet reflection to remind the pupils that God is always present, with either an adult led act of worship or prayers followed by the celebration assembly.

## **Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned -

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' scheme, significant dates and the curriculum.

Scripture will be the focus in most 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 always participating or contributing in a token way.

## **Progression**

As the children progress along their journey through school they also progress along their spiritual journey and become more involved in the planning and preparation of Collective Worship.



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## Recording

Collective Worship is recorded -

- on a rota to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources.
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

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

## Resources

Each class has its own individual Collective Worship box which has different coloured drapes in line with the Church's liturgical year. It also has a bible, crucifix, statue of Our Lady, candle/ holder/ safety lighter and prayer book. Each KS1 class also has a copy of *Pray Together* whilst each KS2 class has *Children's Daily Prayer* for the relevant year group.

All year groups have resources relating to the scheme, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'. Bibles are available in different texts. Other resources, including books and artefacts for different faiths other than Christianity, are available.

## Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Many additional worship opportunities are held throughout the year these are usually linked to the liturgical calendar or in response to local and global issues. These could include Advent and Lenten Liturgies, Marian Services and so on. The children and members of the school community are invited to take part in voluntary worship particularly in times such as November and praying the Rosary in May and October.





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## Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with pupils whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for pupils to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to **"The Welcome Table. Planning Masses with Pupils"** which contains the complete text of the Church's **'Directory for Masses with Pupils'** as a basis for practice.

The school believes that pupils are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach. In school, therefore, the **'Liturgy of the Word'**, rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At Foundation Stage ( Reception) worship includes -

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety

At Key Stage 1 worship includes -

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word

At Key Stage 2 worship includes -

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

## Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the governing body, together with the Head Teacher to ensure that the policy is implemented.

## Leads for Collective Worship

Miss Guy and Miss Horkan



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## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinators and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors will play a most important role.





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## **Appendix 1**

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship.
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school improvement plan.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Pupils'.
- Assisting the governors and Head Teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities regarding Collective Worship.

### **Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Observing and evaluating, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship.
- Informing the Head Teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship.

### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship.
- Acting as consultant to colleagues.
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship.
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship.
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaison with the school chaplain.
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre.



# **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## **Professional Development**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back

## **Resources**

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently.