

**St Aidan's Catholic Primary School**  
"Living and growing in Christ"

# Collective Worship Policy



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## 1. Introduction

‘The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.’

Collective Worship in a Catholic school acknowledges and celebrates the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is through acts of shared Worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our schools are shaped and sustained.

Sacramental aspects of the Church’s liturgical life, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation, must be intrinsically woven into the fabric of a school’s Catholic identity. It is therefore expected that all schools will have a schedule of liturgical events which will include planned participation in Mass and other Eucharistic liturgies such as Adoration, and the opportunity for its members to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent. An indicative school liturgical calendar is set out in the appendices to this policy.

## 2. Legal Requirements

The law requires all maintained schools:

- Provide daily Collective Worship for all pupils including those in the sixth form (Section 70, 1988 Education Act);
- Acts of Collective Worship are not to be designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school this means that times of Collective Worship are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education;
- Recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

In addition:

- Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools;
- Governors in Catholic academies give a written commitment to do the same.

### 3. Responsibility and Oversight of Collective Worship

The governors and head are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for the whole school, class and/or phase group worship.

Each school must ensure:

- That there is a named person who is responsible for organising Collective Worship across the school;
- That Collective Worship, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily;
- That all pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day;
- That Collective Worship is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead;
- That there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Collective Worship which clearly demonstrates the impact on the school's Catholic mission.

### 4. Principles of Collective Worship

Acts of Worship in our Catholic schools should endeavour to:

- Give praise and honour to God;
- Give pupils meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church
- Give pupils and students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- Be of high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

### 5. Aims of Collective Worship

The ultimate aim of Collective Worship in the Catholic school is to provide the space and tools for our young people, within the context of the Catholic faith and traditions:

- To contemplate the mystery of God;
- To develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To foster and nurture relationships;
- To respond to and to celebrate life;
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- To nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;
- To enrich religious experience;
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development;

- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- To seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## Appendix 1: Indicative School Liturgical Calendar

Month	Liturgical Event	Participants
September	New Academic Year Mass	Yr1 - Yr6
October	St Francis' Feast Day Assembly Rosary Prayer groups	Yr1- Yr6 Yr5 - Yr6
November	Feast Day Mass/ Assembly for All Saints	Yr1 - Yr6
December	Nativity Carol Service	Reception - Yr1 Yr2- Yr6
January	School Mass	Reception- Yr6
February	Ash Wednesday service/ Ashes distribution	Reception - Yr6
March/ April	Class reconciliation services Easter Passion led by Year 5	Yr3 - Yr6 Reception - Yr6
May	Feast Day Mass for the Ascension of the Lord First Holy Communion	Reception - Yr6 Yr3
June	Sacred heart Assembly	Yr1 - Yr6
July	End of year Mass	Reception - Yr6
August		

## Appendix 2: Indicative School Collective Worship Week

Reception				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.
Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.
			Meditation and reflection (15 minutes).	

Yr1- Yr6				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.	Prayers twice daily.
Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.	Prayer before meals.
Gospel Assembly Prayer reflection time			Meditation and reflection (15 minutes).	
			Hymn Practice	