



St Gabriel's R.C. High School

Collective Worship Policy

'We strive to use our God given talents to serve others and to succeed'

Quote from the School Mission Statement

Rationale

The mission of St Gabriel's RC High School is to provide an educational experience, which seeks to place Christ's values, ideals and teachings at the heart of all our relationships and activities. To this end we seek to create a true community of faith and place of learning which supports both Staff and Students on their own spiritual journey.

Purpose

Collective worship is an act of the whole community – students and staff. 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/or only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions -or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The purpose of this policy is to set out guidelines to ensure that the school is meeting its legal requirements but, more importantly, providing meaningful acts of worship in a variety of formats which both educate and allow for that space and reflection which all people need. Worship in school ought to:

- Promote a deeper awareness of God and relationship to him
- Celebrate the key moments in the life of the Church, individuals and the community
- Celebrate the gifts, talents and achievements of all
- Foster a sense of mystery, joy, awe and wonder
- Offer reflection on key Christian themes such as peace, forgiveness, responding to the needs of others, compassion
- Develop a sense of a community
- Help students to live out the school motto 'The Lord is My Strength' and logo 'Strength, Service, Success'.
- Promote the value of each individual in the sense of self worth
- Be catechetical in that it promotes a deeper understanding of the nature and vocabulary of worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

In our daily act of worship we uphold the Salford Diocesan Framework for Review, Evaluation and Celebration. The Staff Liturgy Working party will review and monitor Liturgical events three times a year to evaluate and to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Guidelines:

Whole-school liturgies

- Whole-school liturgies should offer a variety of liturgical and devotional experiences including Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, Remembrance Liturgies, All Saints Day Liturgies, Ash Wednesday Liturgies, Guided Christian Meditation and Creative Prayer Experiences. The Staff Liturgy Working Party will take the lead in preparing the liturgies and student involvement in the preparation and delivery is considered very important. All whole-school celebrations are student-led

with the Gift Team, Student Leadership Groups taking an active role in planning and creating resources for the liturgies.

- As the source and summit of Catholic sacramental life, the Eucharist is celebrated in Whole Year Group Masses at Advent, Lent and the End of the Year. Year 7 will also celebrate a Welcome Mass and Year 11 will celebrate a Leavers Mass.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in line with the availability of Clergy during seasonal Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent.
- Links are forged with local parishes and, when possible, major school celebrations should be shared with the local community e.g. Advent Carol Service.
- Pupils will be offered Retreat Days either in house or at residential retreat centres.
- Visual Displays around school should promote the school's Mission Statement and the religious character of the school.

Daily acts of worship

- Unless absolutely unavoidable there will be a daily assembly rotated around all year groups and which is clearly and recognisably an act of Christian worship. The Pastoral Deputy will publish the assembly rota and suggested themes to be used for each term.
- The involvement of students in the preparation and delivery of assemblies in every year group is expected. All assemblies will incorporate a variety of media; including the spoken word, music, poetry, drama, ICT etc. to allow students to feel fully involved. Staff are expected to attend the assembly along with the year groups with which they are associated.
- For those members of the school community not in the assembly there should be a collective act of worship during morning registration as a form or tutor group. There should be a Mission Statement, Cross or a Crucifix in every Form Room. Pastoral and academic leaders are responsible for supporting and monitoring this aspect of our school life.

Staff

- Staff morning briefings should begin with an act of worship with all staff prepared to take the lead.
- Each school year begins with a Mass for staff to welcome the start of the new academic year.
- All new Staff will have CPD in the Ethos and Spirituality of the School.
- All Staff will have access to the Prayer Book File on the Shared Area which includes a School Prayer Book and all liturgies created.
- The school aims to mark special occasions for staff, such as retirements, with a Mass to celebrate and give thanks for the contribution which has been made to the life of the school.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (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 Act of Worship is not designated curriculum time 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 Academy, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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 will 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.