



*in God's hands*

## **St Ignatius Primary School Collective Worship Policy**

Policy Originator	St Ignatius Primary School
Person /Governor Responsible	Con Bonner / RE Team
Status	Statutory
Last reviewed	Spring 2025
Ratified on	
To be next reviewed	Spring 2026
Signed	

## Collective Worship Policy



### Our Mission Statement

**'Safe in God's hands we share our PEARL values'**

## **The Nature of Collective Worship**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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**

We acknowledge 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.

We understand 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.

At St Ignatius Primary School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body, after consultation with the head teacher.

## **The place of Collective Worship in the Life of our 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 a 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

Those with special educational and medical needs

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.

<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

## **The Aims of Collective Worship in the Life of our 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 to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To develop the skills of:
  - Reverence
  - Contemplation
  - Reflection
  - Interpretation
  - Empathy
  - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

### **Principles:**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children 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>
- Celebrations will be :
  - be short and appropriately paced taking into account the age of the children
  - be appropriate to their level of understanding
  - include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

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

## How Collective Worship is organised

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship within St Ignatius is as follows:

Day	Time	What	Theme
Monday	10.10 am	PEARL assembly and Collective worship  Or Class- based worship	Achievement awards WS Collective worship  Own class collective worship
Tuesday	9 00 – 9.30am       Varies	Class Assembly Parents attend year group assemblies held twice a year      Whole school Class based Collective Worship	Themes are set out at the beginning of each term. The rota for assemblies is in each class and on the staff room notice board. Each year group has planned celebration of learning in RE to which parents are invited.      Collective worship within classrooms
Wednesday	9.00 – 9.20am  9.20 – 9.40am  Varies	Y56 PEARL Assembly  Y12 PEARL Assembly  Y34 Class-based worship	Achievement awards Collective worship  Achievement awards Collective worship  Own class collective worship
Thursday	9.00 – 9.20am  Varies	Y34 PEARL Assembly  Y12 56 Class-based worship	Achievement awards Collective worship  Own class collective worship
Friday	2:30-3.00	Y1 – Y6	Sunday's Gospel ( Wednesday Word )

Children also take part in daily Christian Meditation within their respective classes. Children will participate in additional Collective Worship during religious seasons, on Holy days and other days of religious significance.

## The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned :

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons', 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 pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for our Collective Worship for our school will be:

<b>Gather</b>	How we come together, the setting, the environment (Quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
<b>Proclaim</b>	Every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source.
<b>Respond</b>	The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God ( Intercessory prayers )
<b>Go Forth (Mission)</b>	Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

## Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner in RE folders to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, prayers, collections of pupils' contributions, photographs, videos etc.

Those with special educational and medical needs

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.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a term the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the RE leaders 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**

Children's Bibles and prayer table resources are kept in each class.  
Each class will have a COLLECTIVE WORSHIP folder – with plastic wallets containing resources for the four parts of the collective worship act.  
Resources for Sacraments, Christian Living, the Church and other faiths are kept in the RE Resource area in the staff room.  
Posters, books and religious artefacts are also kept there.

## **Voluntary Worship and Retreat**

Children are given a number of opportunities to participate voluntarily in worship.  
During Lent each class is invited to share in prayer groups.  
Children are also invited to attend Stations of the Cross at St Ignatius Church.  
During the month of May children are invited to offer prayers of intercession to Our Lady by participating in devotional exercises.

## **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations take place throughout the course of the academic year, in keeping with the liturgical season. These will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage, i.e children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and those children who have already made their First Holy Communion.  
The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration, as other acts of school worship.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and, particularly, the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting on aspects of the Mass, including The Liturgy of the Word
- participation in special masses and termly school mass

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- participation in special masses and termly school mass

### **The RE Team is responsible for:**

#### **General:**

- 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 Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.

Where applicable a planning group will organise various occasions for Collective Worship. This group may include the head teacher and the RE Team, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain.

### **Planning, Recording, Monitoring and E valuating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, 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
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- 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
- Liaising with the school chaplain

### **Professional Development and Ongoing Formation**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

### **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

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the RE Team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually.

The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school on a termly basis.

