

Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools



St Charles Catholic Primary School
Love God, Love Thy Neighbour



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Learning together in Faith and Love

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: January 2022

Next review date: Spring Term 2024

Mission Statement

“Learning together in Faith and Love”

- St. Mary's R.C. Primary School exists to serve the Roman Catholic families of the Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Kensal New Town and other local parishes.

The aims of our schools are:

- To promote Christian values where children live, learn and celebrate the teaching of Christ.
- To provide a curriculum which is broad, balanced and meaningful and where children can experience enjoyment and fulfilment.
- To promote the highest standards of teaching and learning within the framework of the National Curriculum
- To develop in each child a sense of achievement, value and self worth and to achieve the standards of which they are capable.
- To help our children acquire the skills of independent learning and make sufficiently rapid progress.
- To provide a safe and secure environment where children feel valued, and where they respect, help and care for each other.
- To involve parents in all aspects of their child's education and promote good home/school partnership.
- To develop in our children awareness and respect for the different cultures and religions represented in society and their responsibility to the wider community.
- To foster the continuing development of staff, parents and governors in serving the community.

St. Mary's Values- these are the values that underpin all areas of our school community:

- **Kindness**
- **Respect**
- **Tolerance**
- **Honesty**
- **Responsibility (for ourselves and our world)**
- **Co-operation**

The Nature of Collective Worship.

At St Charles and St Mary's Schools, 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.¹

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.) 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Schools

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 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 both schools 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.

We believe that Collective Worship in our schools aim 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
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- 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 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.
- Celebrations will:
 - 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 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

How Collective Worship is organised in School

Collective worship takes place in the classroom on days when there are no School or key Stage assemblies and, as such, where the class will have no opportunity to experience a collective worship in a wider setting.

They will usually take place after play or lunch time, which means collective worship will not be rushed. It also acts as an opportunity for children to become calm for the following learning session.

They should last approximately ten minutes but they can be made longer or shorter depending on the year group.

Pupils work in small groups to plan each Collective Worship prior to the session. All pupils will reflect and give feedback to the children planning the session so future worship can be improved.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 10-10 and 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' programmes, 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
- developing pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for both schools is:

- ❖ **Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Proclaim** - every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- ❖ **Respond** - 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)
- ❖ **Go Forth** - 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 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

Worksheets of ideas and resources are provided for the children to address all four aspects, however, children are encouraged to use their own resources where they feel confident.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children 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 children to participate will be maximised.

We believe that children 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 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.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is overseen by the RE Coordinator, Loredana Beurthe and Catholic Life of the School Lead, Magdalena Tusting.