

Chorley St. Mary's

Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Collective Worship Policy

Policy approved: April 2017

Policy Document for Collective Worship

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's is a welcoming community who: learn together; live out Catholic values; celebrate all achievement and believe all is possible in Christ's hands.

'With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow.'

AIMS

At Chorley St. Mary's our aim in Collective Worship is to provide opportunities for celebration of various kinds which:

- help all children to celebrate their love for one another and accept the mystery of God's love.
- enable all children to grow in conscious awareness of the spiritual dimension of life and to actively respond to it.
- help all children to understand some of the elements of liturgy, through greetings, community praise, silence, song, etc.

OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve these aims during Collective Worship, all children will be given opportunities to:

- reflect
- wonder at
- contemplate the mystery of
- celebrate special events and times
- come to terms with
- give worth to life experiences
- learn about and appreciate other faiths

The objectives will be achieved through Collective Worship practised in a variety of groupings:

As a Class Group

Each day all children meet for worship within their own class group. It need not occur at the beginning of the day, but rather at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants. This worship can take the form of prayers, singing hymns or songs, liturgy and contemplation. It may provide opportunities for discussion and sharing of feelings and emotions. Although collective worship can be linked to the topic of 'Come and See' or circle time, it is important to recognise and respect that we are remembering and celebrating the marvellous things God works in our lives.

All children are encouraged to take an active part in our gatherings, and opportunities are constantly being looked for to further this involvement.

Each classroom has a focus area for Collective worship. This will include a candle or oil burner, which is a visual aid to remind us of God's presence in our lives. There may be other items which are age relevant and associated with the current 'Come and See' theme.

As a Key Stage or Whole School

The content of all our gathering together for worship is linked to our Religious Education programme 'Come and See', to current PHSCE themes within our school, to the relevant part of our Liturgical year, and to national and world events, such as peace in our world.

Collective worship in our Catholic school, while representing diversity of belief and commitment in other Christians and beyond to other world religions, is Catholic in character, reflecting the tradition of our church, which will have Christ at its heart.

A sense of atmosphere and occasion is established as the children and staff, enter the venue in an orderly manner to a background of quiet music.

The end of each 'Come and See' theme is celebrated by a class, giving a presentation to the whole school. Each class presents a least one celebration during the whole year and parents and friends of the year group are encouraged to attend.

Prayer

Prayer consists of:

Listening – being attentive to the voice of God in every moment of life.

Speaking – expressing our heart's deepest longings and desires to the One who knows and understands us better than we know and understand ourselves.

Reflecting – thinking about our relationship with God. Pondering on the actions of God in history and in the unfolding mystery of our lives.

Resting – simply being consciously in the presence of God, knowing that we are loved.

Classroom Collective Worship should include these;

GATHER, WORD, RESPONSE & GO FORTH.

Hymn Practice

During whole school hymn practices, hymns relating to the current 'Come and See' theme and other Liturgical celebrations will be learnt for occasions of group worship.

Community Celebrations in the Liturgical Calendar

Holydays of Obligation which fall from Tuesday to Friday, are celebrated by Years 3 – 6 attending Mass, with the parish, at St. Mary's Church.

In addition, a Mass is attended at church to celebrate the beginning of the new school year and during the year, Masses are celebrated at Harvest and Advent in school.

At the end of their final year at St. Mary's, Year 6 pupils, with their families, celebrate the end of their primary years with a Mass in school.

Parents, families, friends and parishioners are welcome at all school Masses.

Sacramental Groups

The First Sacrament of the Reconciliation and Eucharist are celebrated by Year 4 throughout the academic year with First Holy Communion taking place on a Sunday close to the feast of Corpus Christi. Preparation for the Sacraments are ongoing from the Foundation class through the 'Come and See' scheme, but gains momentum from the Year 3 Summer term to the celebration of the Sacraments in Year 4. Celebration of the Eucharist is endorsed throughout the 'Come and See' scheme as the child progresses through the school but preparation takes place in the parish via 'Family Catechesis' ran by the Parish Priest; Father Marsden.

Parents are encouraged to support the preparations for the first Sacrament of the Eucharist by attending 'Family Catechesis' with their child throughout Year 4, by spending time with their child, discussing topics covered in school and in assisting with the completion of appropriate tasks. A parent's meeting is held early in the summer term of Year 3 to raise parental awareness about the importance and relevance of the Sacraments, before, on and after the day. Father Marsden, the parish priest, is present at the meeting together with the headteacher, RE subject leader and the class teacher. Following this initial meeting, a Welcome Mass is held at St. Mary's Church to encourage parental involvement and regular participation of the children at the 11.00 am Sunday Mass.

Prayer Sponsors are arranged in the parish by the 'Family Catechesis Group'.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated formally by Year 4 children, during the Autumn Term. The Sacrament is received during a special Mass, to which parents, families, friends and parishioners are welcomed.

Links with the Community

Parents, family, friends and parishioners are invited to school Masses held in Church and at school. They are also invited to school productions at Church; in particular at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and other school events.

Parents and family of each year group are invited to their child's class celebration at the end of a 'Come and See' theme.

At Christmas, the school choir visits local Nursing Homes to celebrate the season by singing traditional and seasonal songs.

We have links with St. Mary's SVP society, which helps children who experience hardship.

Links with Other Faiths

We live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and it is in this context that Catholic schools exist. During Collective Worship, it is important that at appropriate times, children should be introduced to the background and beliefs of people of other faiths, so that they appreciate from an early age the importance of religions, beliefs and practices to all races and cultures. In

appreciating and learning about the diversity of beliefs and practices, we aim to encourage tolerance, understanding and harmony.

FREQUENCY, TIMING AND LENGTH OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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| Monday | 9.05 – 9.30 am | KS2 Collective Worship |
| Thursday | 9.05 – 9.30 am | Whole School Collective Worship |
| Tues, Weds & Fri | Time in Length=Age in Mins | Class Collective Worship |

PERSONNEL

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| KS2 Worship | Headteacher or Class Teachers |
| Hymn Practice | One teacher will lead whilst Mrs. Cooke (parent) plays. |
| Whole School Worship | RE Coordinator / Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher |
| Sacramental Masses | RE Coordinator / Class Teacher/ Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher |
| Class Worship/Reflection | Class Teacher with Pupil Participation |

Collective Worship is coordinated & monitored by Mr. Hodge (RE co-ordinator).