

Planning and Leading

Collective Worship

Guidance for all staff on the importance, structure, content and requirements of Collective Worship Assemblies

"All maintained schools must provide religious education and **daily** collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development."

- *Collective Worship in Schools Policy Gov.uk*

"In schools with a designated religious character, like Catholic schools, collective worship is far more than a statutory requirement. **It is crucial to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils' moral and spiritual development.** Collective worship is an important part of a Catholic school's distinctive ethos."

- *Catholic Education Service*

Collective Worship

Structure and Planning

Date:

Theme:

Scripture:



Gather

We are reminded why we gather, and in whose name we gather; the theme is introduced.



Listen

We listen to the word of God in scripture; this is then expanded or explained as necessary, relating it to the age and experience of the pupils.



Respond

We are invited to respond appropriately to God's Word; this might be through silent reflection, examination of conscience or in prayer, spoken aloud by one person or by all.



Send Forth

We end the time of prayer collectively and are challenged to take what we have learned with us as we go.

Prepare the way of the Lord



Collective Worship

Structure and Planning



Gather

We are reminded why we gather, and in whose name we gather; the theme is introduced.

- DOL's settle the year group upon entrance to the hall. Ensure silence and reverence before beginning our act of worship:
- Sign of the Cross
- Welcome
- Introduction to the theme ... “Today’s assembly is about ...”,
- Opening Prayer is prayed allowed collectively:
 - This could be a Morning Offering, an Our Father, or any other prayer.
 - It could also be a prayer written by yourself or by the pupils.

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Listen

We listen to the word of God in scripture; this is then expanded or explained as necessary, relating it to the age and experience of the pupils.

- Gospel Reading from the previous Sunday. (Found on Rota)
 - Read by staff or pupils, rehearsed beforehand to ensure they can be heard and can pronounce words; If possible, read from a bible or Lectionary, not a piece of paper.
- Reflection
 - You might reflect on a theme from the reading, relating it to the pupil's experience or to the world. Some of the following might give further ideas: -
- Use a newspaper article or stories from the news
- Use an idea from a TV programme, film or book
- Use images or props to help illustrate
- Use a story (either fact or fiction) from your own experience or from others
- Use a PowerPoint reflection with words and images and perhaps music
- Show a clip from a Movie/Youtube
- Use an historical event, e.g Holocaust Memorial Day
- Use the life and example of a Saint if it is a feast day
- Use dramatisation to enhance the Gospel message (this shouldn't replace the Gospel reading but could be performed alongside or in addition to the scripture reading)

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Respond

We are invited to respond appropriately to God's Word; this might be through silent reflection, examination of conscience or in prayer, spoken aloud by one person or by all.

- Respond in prayer and reflection
- Either: Invite Pupils to pray for a moment in silence before leading a prayer e.g “Let’s take a moment to reflect on what God is asking of us today, asking him for the strength we need to follow Jesus” ... (pause for 30 seconds) ... Prayer read aloud together.
- Or: If using a traditional prayer, e.g Our Father, ask the pupils to reflect first on what they want to pray for then say it together. Ensure that it is not rushed but said collectively at a normal pace, to allow the pupils time to think about the words, e.g “Let’s take a moment to reflect on what God is asking for us today, asking him for the strength we need to follow Jesus ... (Pause for 30 seconds) ... We pray together: Our Father ...” (Only one traditional prayer should be recited in collective worship)
- Or: put a simple prayer relating to the theme in a powerpoint that the pupils can say together.
- Or: Announce 3 or 4 short prayer intentions, some of which might be related to the theme, each ending with a period of silence to allow everyone to pray, then ending ‘Lord, in your mercy’, to which all respond, ‘Hear our prayer’. These are commonly known as Bidding Prayers.
- Or: Reflect in silence whilst a hymn or piece of Music is playing before praying a final prayer aloud together.

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Send Forth

We end the time of prayer collectively and are challenged to take what we have learned with us as we go.

- Recap on theme of Collective worship. Remind students of the key points.
- Offer thoughts to think about throughout the next week.
- If possible, provide a challenge - for example, if your Collective Worship touched upon a particular charitable organisation, you could challenge the students and staff members to raise money for their charity.
- Sign of the Cross
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- Once the Collective Worship element of the assembly has finished, HOY may wish to add a final thought on what has just been said before moving on to announcements.

Collective Worship

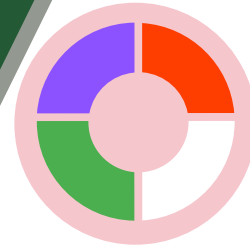
Structure and Planning

Key things to keep in mind when planning and delivering Collective Worship



The Season

Is it a special time of year in the Church? Advent or Lent? Is it Harvest Time or Lenten fasting?
Is it the beginning of the Church's Liturgical year or the end?



Liturgical Colour

Is it Lent, Advent, Ordinary Time, A Feast Day or Solemnity? This will be indicated on the Collective Worship Rota and may influence the colour choices of your powerpoint slides.



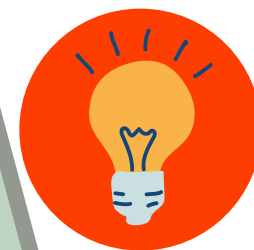
See

Song lyrics, Prayer focus/Altar, Bible (Scripture), Drama, PowerPoint, Icon/Object, Quote, Pictures, Gospel Procession, Liturgical Dance, Video, Liturgical Colours, Artwork, Candle, Crucifix, Action, Sign Language, Advent Candel.



Hear

Scripture, Music, Explanations of the theme and of scripture, Drama, Words of Wisdom, Quotes, Story, Singing, Silence.



Think

Reflection Time, Questions, Prayers, (Sorry Prayers/Asking Prayers/Thank You Prayers), How do the pupils carry out the mission going forward, Links with the Saints/Holy people/celebrities/iconic people, Meditation, Links with other scripture, Links with school themes/events, Links with current situations in the media.



Do

Sing a Hymn or song, Perform actions or signs to a song, Gosepl Acclamation, Write things down individually, Write things down as a small group/person next to you, Actions (eg. Sign of the Cross, Sign of Peace), Changing the way we sit (eg. bowing, closing eyes, joining hands), Follow up activities, Movement.

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Collective Worship

Structure and Planning

**Help &
Support**

- Drop-in session for more training in the New Year for those that need extra help and support.
- A standard template will be created and distributed before the Christmas holidays which so that all our Collective Worship are uniform in structure but also have the same opening slide with the Mission Statement clearly visible for all.
- Collective Worship for ALL not just students!
- Morning Prayer is part of our Collective Worship provision so please come along and encourage your forms and classes to do so too!

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