

MISSION STATEMENT

As we learn, we will follow the example of Jesus,
and respect everybody in our community, treating them with
Consideration, Care and Courtesy.

“Keep the Joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family. Be Holy - let us pray.”

Bl Mother Theresa of Calcutta

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.

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, prayed either by the teacher or everyone present, does not necessarily fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are often 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.

In this 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 St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship at St Edmund's Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It will have Christ at its heart and, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church.

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 of the Church.
- ✓ Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- ✓ Those for 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 this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It will be related to the 'day to day life, aspirations, and concerns of the school.' (Education Reform Act 1988.)

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 enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

Principles

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- ✓ Give glory to God
- ✓ Be a quality activity, 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. In order to do this 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 minutes for key stage one, 7-10 minutes for key stage 2.)
 - Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Class Based Acts of Collective Worship

- Teachers organise, plan and prepare other acts of worship, such as simple prayer services that are appropriate to the spiritual life of the class. These may incorporate music, drama, mime, reflection, meditation and litanies. Wherever possible this should be planned with the children's involvement.
- The whole school is involved in following a weekly theme. This is set by the collective worship co-ordinator. Teachers are asked to be flexible with this theme and plan according to their class needs as they develop.

Worship & Assemblies

- Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher or a visiting speaker each Monday afternoon. (visitors include pastor Tony Adegbenro from Hope House and Gill Chestney from Our Lady's)
- Key Stage 2 collective worship based around Wednesday Word each Wednesday afternoon led by the Assistant Headteacher.
- Key Stage 1 collective worship based around Wednesday Word each Thursday afternoon led by the Assistant Headteacher.
- Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher each Friday afternoon.

Who?

- The Headteacher will ensure that collective worship is provided for each child each day.
- The governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for collective worship after consulting with the Headteacher.
- Class teachers plan and enable collective worship to take place.
- Pupils will have the opportunities to take part in daily collective worship.
- Parents will be invited to participate in some acts of collective worship.

Where?

Collective worship can take place

- **In the school hall**
- **In the class setting**
- **In our school grounds**
- **On residential visits**

When?

It should occur at the time most appropriate for the class or key stage to ensure that it is meaningful and prayerful. It is important to note that each child takes part in collective worship every day.

How?

Collective Worship should provide a variety of experiences:

- It can be led by learners, staff or visitors

- Can be offered for a class, year group, phase or whole school
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance drama, slides or short address
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of learners
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship. Our SEAL programme is also linked whenever possible to our spiritual and moral education.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situation within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating in a token way.

Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- On a school record sheet that is kept and monitored by the RE co-ordinator
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos, etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At St Edmund's School regular evaluation is encouraged by staff and pupils to:-

- Establish if the collective worship provided meets the needs of all the pupils.

- Enable pupils to make progress in acquiring skills. E.g. organise and lead celebrations.

Once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated through pupil interviews to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring the skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Music CDs and ipod

Hymn books

God's story and Church's Story

Come and See

Children's prayer books

A range of crosses, statues and candles

Posters reflecting different themes and seasons in the liturgical year

Focus table in each classroom

Focus tables in the entrance foyer

Prayer focus in the hall for Whole School and other acts of Worship.

The Co-ordinator of Collective Worship

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- 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 development plan
- Ensuring that collective worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils

- Ensuring that collective worship takes account of religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory of Masses for Children' and Revised Roman Missal.
- Organising themes for collective worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship

PLANNING, RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Monitoring acts of collective worship as required
- 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 consultants to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes to collective worship
- Informing newly qualified and newly appointed colleagues of school policy in regard to collective worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaising with parish clergy
- Liaising with Archdiocesan Education team

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for collective worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and feeding back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

RESOURCES

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available

Collective Worship Policy

Consideration, Care and Courtesy

- Budgeting efficiently

Original Policy September 2012

Revised May 2019