

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School



**Collective Worship Policy
2022**

1. The Mission Statement

'In the joy of the Gospel we will be work together to be kind, fair and honest, and become the people Jesus calls us to be.'

2. Statement of Beliefs

St. Gregory's Catholic primary school aims to be a loving community which is inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The school affirms that all children and staff are unique and should have opportunities to achieve their full potential to learn or to teach and to experience success in a broad, varied and balanced curriculum. The school aims to value all members of the school community including staff, children, parents, governors, parishioners and visitors.

3. The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship with God, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit. At St Gregory's, collective worship is an integral part of the school life. It gives children the opportunity to 'Live the Faith'. We gather as a community to listen to the teachings of the Faith, pray and **reflect** on our own lives.

4. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship at St. Gregory's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

5. The Aims of Collective worship

We believe that collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To reflect on the mystery of God.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To explore their own beliefs.
- To experience a sense of responsibility and belonging where a common ethos and set of values and attitudes are developed and shared.
- To develop children's sense of curiosity, awe and wonder about the world that they live in.
- To celebrate the glory of God and have the opportunity to reflect on questions of meaning and worth.
- To grow in a liturgical understanding of the Catholic Faith.

6. Principles

Stimulating and engaging methods are used so that all can fully participate and take ownership.

- The children are grouped in classes, Key Stages and as a whole school. Their religious experience and background vary considerably.
- Whole school settings allow the children to gather as a loving and learning community and to celebrate the life of the school.
- Smaller size settings help children develop an age-appropriate liturgical understanding of the life of the Church.
- Collective worship should be appropriately paced and inclusive of all children's experiences. The length of time will be appropriate to each age group:
 - Reception and KS1 - 5-7 minutes
 - KS2 - 7-11 minutes
- Children are encouraged to be Curious, Responsible, Resilient, Reflective and to show Reciprocity.
- Collective worships have a visual focus which leaders will use to create an atmosphere appropriate for worship. Children know how special and important collective worship is and as such are very well behaved.
- The children are also made aware of any current issues happening around the world or in our country or community that may need our special prayers.
- Use of music and singing, individual and collective prayer, opportunities for stillness, silence, reflection and reverence are also included.

How Collective Worship is organised at St. Gregory's

Monday	Whole School Liturgy and celebration assembly led by Head Teacher - 9.10 a.m.
Tuesday	Whole school worship and hymns led by Deputy Head - 9.20
Wednesday	Class collective worship at various times throughout the day.
Thursday	Class collective worship at various times throughout the day.
Friday	Whole-school collective worship led by either the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher - 9.10 a.m.

Annual Mass and Liturgy Schedule

September	Celebration of a new school year - in school 3 rd - Feast of St. Gregory - in school
October	Our Lady's Birthday and celebration of month of the Rosary - In school Harvest Festival In school
November	1 st - All Saints/All Souls - In school Christ the King - In school
December	Advent - In church Sacrament of Reconciliation - In church Immaculate Conception - In school
January	Epiphany - In Church Baptism of Jesus - In school
February	The Presentation of Jesus - In school Our Lady of Lourdes - In school Ash Wednesday - In church Children invited to attend parish Mass during Lent
March	1 st - St. David - In school 17 th - St. Patrick - In school 19 th - St. Joseph - In school Annunciation - In school Holy Week - celebrated the week before we finish if it does not fall in term time - In Church
April	19 th - St. George - In school

May	Ascension - In school Pentecost - In school Sacrament of Confirmation and Communion - in church
June	Corpus Christi - In school 29 th - SS Peter/Paul - In school with a special focus on those children who have undertaken a Sacrament
July	Leaver's mass - In church

7. Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluating.

Planning:

- Children are given a focus for each collective worship that relate to the children's own lives in the school and wider community and that also focus on Christian values and the ethos of school.
- Collective worship follows a structure with reference to Come and See and significant dates within the school year. A calendar of dates is given to staff at the beginning of the year by the RE subject leader.
- The head teacher and deputy head teacher lead whole school Liturgy and collective worship on Mondays and Fridays.
- Children are placed in collective worship groups in KS2 and are asked to plan and prepare Collective Worship with increasing independence towards upper KS2.
- Throughout the year governors, parents, clergy and parishioners are invited to attend whole school collective worship and class collective worship. They are also invited at different points throughout the year to special Masses led by the children and Priest held both at school and Church.
- Staff and Governors are always given time to reflect and pray together before the start of meetings. It is also an opportunity to share any celebrations and successes.

Monitoring

- Collective worship observation
- Photographs
- Talking to the children
- Team teaching
- Discussions between subject leader and staff to ensure resources are up to date and relevant

Evaluating

- Feedback is given to staff members on observations and areas for development are highlighted.

8. Resources

- Each class has a collective worship box containing: artefacts, candles, cloths, statues and any other items the teacher wishes to place in the boxes.
- ICT resources are stored in the Staff Shared Drive on all Laptops.
- *God's Story and Church's Story* for each stage.
- Teachers are aware of all CAFOD resources available on the website.
- A wide range of books containing prayers, stories and parables written in appropriate language for younger children are kept in the central storage area for use to support collective worship.
- *Good News Bibles* are kept in the religious education cupboard.
- A number of information posters for various times of the year are kept in the resource room.
- Large posters containing images from various Bible stories are stored in the religious education cupboard.

9. Voluntary Worship and Retreats

During Lent the junior children are asked to attend the parish Mass once a week before school. This is also attended by teachers who walk the children back to school.

10. Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion such as a Saint's day, Harvest Festival, or may relate to another significant celebration in the life of the school. All children are included in the celebration according to the stage of their faith development and are encouraged to participate. This may be as a reader, server, member of the choir, or as part of the offertory procession. Reference will be made to the Church's '**Directory of Masses for Children**' as a basis for our practice.

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 some ritual and a variety of activities.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass, for example, 'The Lord be with you - and with your Spirit'.
- The liturgy of the word: age- appropriate stories from the Old and New Testaments, particularly the Gospels.

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.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Eucharistic prayer and/or the Communion Rite.

11. The Subject Leader for Collective Worship

The current subject leader is Miss Gemma Mair. See Appendix 1 for coordinator job description.

12. Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the religious education subject leader and head teacher and is reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix 1

The role of the subject leader for collective worship is to:

- Formulate a written policy for collective worship.
- Ensure that there is a development plan for collective worship which may at times form part of the school development plan.
- Ensure that collective worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Ensure 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'.
- Organise themes for worship.
- Assist the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship.

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation.
- Observe, on occasions, acts of collective worship.
- Inform the head teacher of standards and developments in collective worship.

Communication

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of acts of collective worship.
- Report to and consult with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development.
- Act as consultant to colleagues.
- Encourage positive attitudes towards collective worship.
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding collective worship.
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community.
- Liaise with the Parish Priest.
- Liaise with the Diocesan RE Centre.

Professional development / On-going formation

- Lead and organise in-service training and on-going formation for collective worship.
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back to all staff.
- Keep up to date by personal reading.

Resources

- Evaluate existing resources.
- Develop the resources available for collective worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budget efficiently.

Appendix 2

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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any voluntary aided school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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.