



St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

love of learning
and playing together
one community
aiming high
helping each other
and praying together

On our journey with Christ

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. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time 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 Our School

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

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, at lunch time and in the evening. 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship in St John the Baptist RC Primary 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 make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles:

All acts of Worship in St John the Baptist RC Primary school will:

- Give glory and honour 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.

Planning for Collective Worship

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, CARITAS in Action, significant dates, our Mission Statement and the curriculum.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship and the development of religious literacy.
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission.
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider local and global community.
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.
- There will be opportunity for children to reflect and respond in prayer sessions.
- A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole School Collective Worship led by Head teacher and GIFT Team based on liturgical year, Gospel readings and school themes.

Tuesday – KS2 assembly centred around children's liturgy and Gospel readings lead by class teachers and role played in mixed age/ability groups.

Wednesday – KS1 assembly centred around children's liturgy and Gospel readings lead by class teachers and role played in mixed age/ability groups.

Thursday – Whole School Collective Worship led by GIFT Team based on liturgical year, Gospel readings and school themes.

Friday – Whole School Celebration Assembly led by Head teacher.

Planning for Class Prayer Sessions

Each class gathers for Collective worship sessions on the day on which they do not have an assembly. This may be in classrooms, in the prayer room or in the prayer garden. These prayer sessions follow a calendar of themes, linked to our new curriculum planning around

the liturgical year and are fully resourced. Children in each class have been developing their roles in planning and leading class collective worship sessions following the structure of Gather, Listen to the Word, Reflect and Go forth continuing the mission.

Autumn 1 - New beginnings / Community / Harvest

Autumn 2 – All Saints / All Souls / Remembrance / Advent

Spring 1 – Epiphany / Candlemas / Leaders of the world

Spring 2 – Lent / Stations of the Cross / Social Justice / Rights and Responsibilities

Summer 1 - New life / Easter / Stewardship / Creation

Summer 2 – Pentecost / Talents / Power / Holy Spirit / Celebration of our achievements.

There are lots of opportunities for parent involvement in our prayer sessions where children take home the Holy Family Nativity set during Advent, a Romero Cross during Lent and special prayer books to write in aspirations and celebrations of their children's year in school during the first and last half terms.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our School Collective. Opportunities for children to participate in Mass are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The children participate in whole school celebration masses at St John the Baptist RC Church each term as follows:

Autumn Term - Advent Mass

Spring Term - Lenten Mass

Summer Term – Thanksgiving Mass

One class per week also attends lunchtime mass on a Thursday at St John the Baptist RC Church on a rotary basis.

Other opportunities

There are many other opportunities for whole school celebration throughout the school and liturgical year. We celebrate the Stations of the Cross and the days of Holy week with an assembly from each class during Lent and each key stage performs a nativity or carol concert around Christmas time. During the months of May and October children celebrate Mary by saying the rosary and singing hymns to Mary. During Lent the GIFT team lead prayer stations during lunchtimes in our prayer areas inside and outside school. On the feast of the Epiphany all children dress up as kings and we have an assembly lead by one of the

classes. On the feast day of St John the Baptist, the patron saint of our school, we also have an assembly about St John and later celebrate the talents of the children who come to our school. When the children return from the Easter break we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with a range of fundraising events including egg decorating competitions and an Easter scripture hunt. We will also celebrate the birthday of the church by holding a Pentecost party.

Our Big Art days during the year also contribute to our prayer and worship program. Children have the opportunity to create stained glass windows, Romero Crosses, Stations of the Cross and advent wreaths amongst much more.

Sacramental Preparation takes place according to Diocesan guidelines for Reconciliation and Eucharist. School also carries out the duty of parish responsibility regarding these Sacramental Preparation programmes. These classes may take place either after school or during the school day.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored over the year by observation and scrutiny of collective worship books. Feedback of the best practise seen is given to staff. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified.

Resources

Each class is resourced with an Altar and prayer resources including Bibles, candles, prayer books, rosary beads, Altar cloth and a Romero cross. Any other Liturgy resources are stored in the RE cupboard. The GIFT team are responsible for changing the colour of the Altar cloth during different periods of the liturgical year.

The learning environment

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith are displayed through school and its premises and help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment. Class Altars form the focal point in each classroom and in our hall, each one displays quotes from Holy Scripture, our prayers, evidence of celebrations and any creative work linked to RE.

We have been extremely lucky during recent years to also be able to identify and develop our two, extraordinary prayer spaces. We boast a beautiful prayer room inside and our stunning prayer garden which host a range of activities throughout the school year for collective worship, but are also continually available for individual prayer time or intentions for all of our school faiths.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed when necessary.

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

The coordinator for Collective Worship with a defined role and responsibility is Kelly Whitton.

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring 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'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the head teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources

- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]