



St Mary's RC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

"With Jesus beside us, we love, learn and grow together."

Aims and Purpose

The Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to praise and worship God;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own Christian beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To help the children develop a sense of community and faith;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values; and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship

Collective Worship

We understand prayer and worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God our Father, Jesus his son, Mary his blessed Mother and the wonderful world. Collective worship takes place in class groups to ensure they are appropriate to their age.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Catholic church.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the wider and global community in line with the RE programme, "Come and See".

Organization of Collective Worship

At St Mary's each class holds a class worship twice a week and the rest of the week school celebrates collective worship in whole school assemblies together in the hall.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Collective Worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate way. Pupils are actively involved in planning and delivering acts of Collective Worship all classes. Children are quiet and thoughtful and listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayers and hymns. The pupils create an appropriate atmosphere by choosing music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point during the worship.

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the traditions of the Catholic faith and we often reflect the feast days and events of the Catholic calendar. Often the themes of our Collective Worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the '**Come and See**' programme.' We also use 'Ten:Ten' to explore and reflect the Gospel Teachings of that week.

Once a week school celebrates an achievement assembly where we celebrate the children's achievements and certificates are awarded. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements are important.

We welcome parents, friends and governors to our Celebration Assemblies. Our Pupil Chaplains meet and greet guests before this assembly, hand out our school prayer and lead a reflection on the school worship for the week.

Right of Withdrawal

We welcome and want all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and restated in the 1988 Education reform Act.

Policy date – September 2021



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