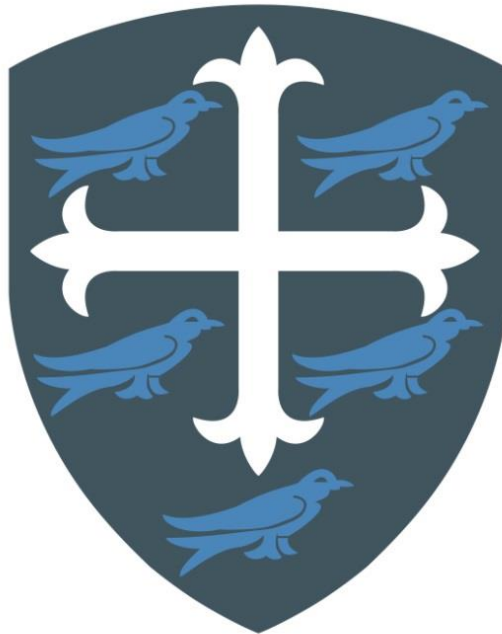


St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Legal Status:	Statutory
Last Review:	
Review date:	January 2020
Next Review:	January 2022
Responsible Person:	Governing Body

Mission Statement

"The family of St Mary's strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person."

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Signed by Headteacher:

Mission Statement

'The Family of St Mary's School strives to grow in God's love and care by learning together and valuing the uniqueness of each person'.

Our school is situated within a diverse community, reflecting a multi-faith and multi-racial community, which we recognise and value. St Mary's aims to reflect the local community while ensuring the Catholic teaching, values and foundations are still maintained.

While St Mary's is a Catholic School, we celebrate the cultural diversity of all members of our school and have a cohesive community. Upon entrance to St Mary's, parents and carers are made aware of the Catholic basis of our teaching. It is therefore unlikely that parents or carers would wish to exercise their legal right of withdrawal. However, should such a case arise, the parents or carers concerned should consult the Headteacher.

Whilst collective worship will always reflect the Christian ethos of our school, we respect and acknowledge the variety of religious observances which are represented in our school and within the wider community.

The Nature of 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, 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.

The Place of Collective Worship at St Mary's

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
- Those with special educational and medical needs.

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.

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 develop the skills of:
 - ✓ Reverence
 - ✓ Contemplation
 - ✓ Reflection
 - ✓ Interpretation
 - ✓ Empathy
 - ✓ Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ

How Collective Worship is organised

Day	Time	Who?	Theme
Wednesday	9.00 – 9.30am	Whole School	Sunday's Gospel
Wednesday	2.30 – 3.00pm	Whole School	Hymn Practice
Friday	9.00 – 9.30am	Whole School	Various

Children also take part in Collective Worship within their respective classes. Children will participate in additional Collective Worship during religious seasons, on Holy days and other days of religious significance as well as attend Mass regularly at Holy Trinity Parish Church.

Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Units of Faith', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be

Gather –how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

Word –every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible.

Response –The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)

Mission –Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through displays, prayers, collections of pupils' contributions, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a term the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by senior leaders to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Children's Bibles and prayer table resources are kept in each class. Each class will have a 'Collective Worship board' –with plastic wallets containing resources for the four parts of the collective worship act. Resources for Sacraments, Christian Living, the Church and other faiths are kept in the Assistant Head's office as well as posters, books and religious artefacts.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations take place in the form of termly masses for the whole school.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Rosie Friel

Job Description

- 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 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 Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.
- Where applicable a planning group will organise various occasions for Collective Worship. This group may include the co-ordinator, the Headteacher, staff, pupils and governors.

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship