

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Bognor Regis



Collective Worship Policy

Approved November 2019

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

At St. Mary's we aim to develop a Roman Catholic community that values and enjoys opportunities to gather together to worship and give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God Our Father in prayer, words, through the gospels, with music, drama, mime and dance.

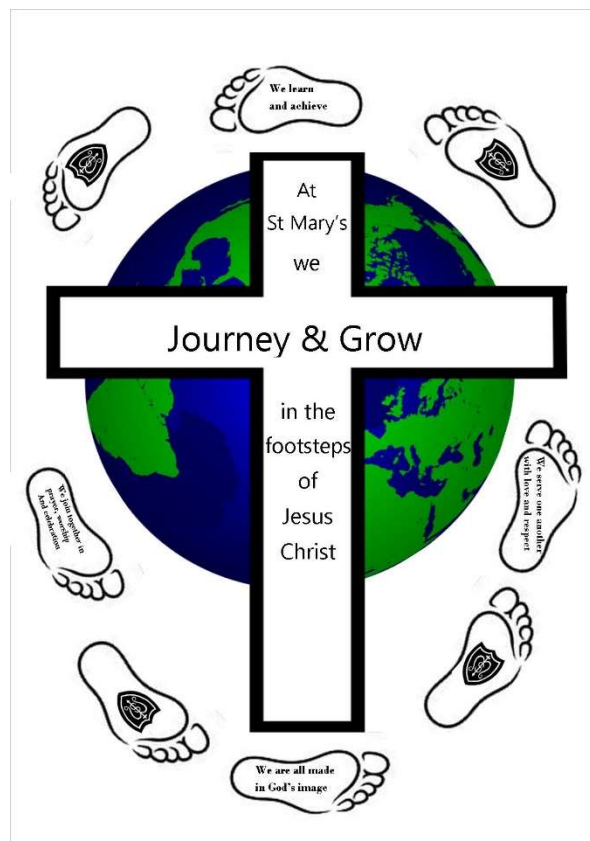
The Purpose of our Policy is:

- To translate our mission statement and school aims into practice.
- To show how Collective Worship makes a contribution to the spiritual well-being of all members of our school community.

We intend to use our Policy to:

- Show that Collective worship is essential to our school's ethos.
- Show that Collective worship makes a major contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our pupils.
- Inform the school community; children, staff, parents, governors and parish about Collective Worship at St. Mary's.

Our Collective Worship Policy is consistent with our Mission Statement and Aims of the school.



Our School Aims

1. To teach the Catholic Faith and lead the children to a more active and personal faith in Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life, so that we are a sign of God's presence in the world.
2. To follow the example of Christ by promoting and interpreting the meaning of the Gospel values and reflecting them in all we do.
3. To pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and support us to fulfil our lives to their greatest potential.
4. To nurture the development of each child within a safe, secure and caring environment which reflects the Christian way of life.
5. To provide each child with opportunities and experiences to enjoy learning and to develop their potential to the highest level.
6. To develop each child's understanding of how to be healthy and safe.
7. To ensure each child has opportunities to express themselves and is able to make reasoned judgements and choices.
8. To collaborate with other agencies and services in order to provide children with quality education, support and care.
9. To work with parents/carers as partners in their child's education, listening to their views and providing guidance and support as appropriate.
10. To foster understanding and respect for other cultures, traditions and faiths.
11. To encourage each child to value our school in Bognor Regis and to use their gifts and talents to make a positive contribution to their local and global community.

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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.¹

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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.

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² 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 need to 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.

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 meditate in order to open our minds to create space for God to enter
- 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.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.
- Celebrations will:
Be short and appropriately paced; be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
 - All acts of worship include a religious element or aspects of, our Catholic/Christian faith. They are linked to liturgical year/cycle of prayer. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
 - Collective acts of worship/assemblies are led by the Head, Deputy, senior staff, class teachers and children with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.
 - Teachers, and as many teaching assistants and school support staff as possible, attend when pupils from their class are involved.
 - Collective worship is planned to develop in pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organize and lead worship as well as participating.
 - Parent/Governors are actively encouraged to attend through newsletters and invitations. All acts of collective worship have a prayer focus which helps create a reflective atmosphere along with the use of music/displays

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

Monday	Whole school collective worship. The theme is based on the previous day's Gospel reading at Mass. Led by the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Foundation/Key Stage 1 gather in the hall for collective worship led by class teachers. Key Stage 2 have collective worship/a liturgy in class, often led by the children.
Wednesday	Early Years/Key Stage 1, and then Key Stage 2, gather in the school hall for a singing worship.
Thursday	Key Stage 2 gather in the hall for collective worship led by class teachers. Key Stage 1 have collective worship/a liturgy in class, often led by the children.
Friday	Whole school collective worship. The theme for these are based around the liturgical year and cycle of prayer as well as involving a celebration, of good work, behaviour, out of school achievements and global awareness, current issues, British Values and care for God's creations.

There are daily staff prayers at 8.35 am. Daily prayers are said in each class at the start and end of the day and before and after lunch.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the 'Come and See' 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 in 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.)
- ❖ **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day or the Come and See topic being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- ❖ **Respond** – 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). This will include a time for quiet reflection.
- ❖ **Go Forth** – 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, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Key Stage

Each class will lead an Act of Worship to which families are invited every term. In the Spring Term these will be linked to Spirituality Week. In the Autumn and Summer Terms the focus of these liturgies are linked to the current topic being studied from the 'Come and See' programme.

Class Liturgies

Each class has a prayer focus, which changes regularly, and is used to support the development of an atmosphere conducive to worship, prayer and reflection. These acts of worship/liturgies are both adult and child led.

Special Liturgies and Masses

These are organised termly to celebrate important feasts and seasons of the church and are held within school or in our local parish church 'Our Lady of Sorrows'.

Each Key Stage 2 class takes it in turns to regularly attend Friday Parish Masses throughout the year. Each class will attend Mass at least once per term.

At the end of the academic year, in the Summer term, Year 6 take part in an afternoon retreat at the Parish Centre which includes a liturgy and sharing some food, with class liturgies for Years 3-5 followed by sharing food. Whilst for the Foundation/Key Stage 1 children a special liturgy is prepared and the children enjoy sharing a drink and biscuits; this takes place on the school field weather permitting.

The school liaises with the leaders of the Parish Youth Groups, Children's Liturgy teams and FHC programme and they are all promoted in school.

Schools/Parish Links

The priests of our Parish encourage and play an active role in the development of collective worship for the school community. They support staff/children in planning and preparing Masses, liturgies and services. Families all receive the parish weekly Newsletter through the school. Parishioners receive a termly Newsletter from the school, and a bi-annual Newsletter from the RE Council. Children in Y4 upwards are invited to attend the Parish Youth Group 'Crossroads'. At Christmas parishioners are invited for a special afternoon performance of the Nativity play, followed by afternoon tea and cake.

Overview of the School year.

In the Autumn Term:

Mass for the beginning of the New Year - for the whole school. Parents/families invited to attend, refreshments available following mass.

Early Years Welcome Liturgy – in the school hall for the new reception children and their families led by the Parish Priest.

Harvest Festival Service – for the whole school, usually on Cafod Family Fast day, sale of goods in the afternoon, and collection of goods for local food bank and homeless shelter.

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Oct/May - Mary / Rosary – The RE council lead a rosary prayer group.

Grandparents' afternoon – This is celebrated in the Diocesan grandparent's week and is a very well attended celebration in school led by children from across the whole school, celebrating all grandparents.

Christ the King

All Saints Day – Key Stage One and Two attend mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church

Service of Remembrance for Key Stage 1+2 led by a Key Stage 2 class on Remembrance Day

Deanery Advent Service at the Cathedral led by one of the four Cathedral Deanery Schools in turn (St. Mary's last led in 2016).

Reconciliation service at school for Key Stage 2 with reconciliation available for children to choose who to go to afterwards.

Advent – RE Council lead an Advent prayer group

Nativity plays – performed by EYFS and Key Stage 1 including a performance for parishioners. Parents/families invited to attend, tea/coffee and mince pies available following the performances.

End of Term Mass for the whole school, led by a KS2 class.

In the Spring Term:

Mass for the start of the New Year for the whole school, led by Key Stage 2 Parents/families invited to attend.

Candlemas – Key Stage 2 attend mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Early Years and KS1 have a special liturgy in school.

Ash Wednesday – Key Stage 2 attend the parish 10.00am Mass and receive ashes. During the day a priest comes to school and leads a simple service for the Foundation/ Key Stage 1 children during which they receive ashes.

Lent – RE council lead a Lenten prayer group

Spirituality Week – This is held in the last week of the term. A theme is chosen which is developed across the week. Each day begins with an act of worship based on the theme, led by partnered classes. Families are invited to attend. The week ends with Mass for the whole school at Our Lady of Sorrows church.

Reconciliation Service at school for the Key Stage 2 children with reconciliation available afterwards.

In the Summer Term:

Corpus Christi

St Peter and St Paul KS2 attend Mass at OLOS. KS1 and Early Years have a liturgy in school.

May – Mary/Rosary – RE council lead a Rosary prayer group.

Marion celebration – The whole school are invited to bring flowers and take part in a special celebration honouring Mary and our mothers. Parents are invited to join the celebration.

Mass for the start of term – for the whole school led by key stage 2

Good Shepherd Mass – This is attended, with the children from the RE council to represent the school. We travel there with the other Deanery schools.

End of Year class Masses/liturgies – Each Key Stage 2 class (Years 3-5) during the summer term celebrates a Mass just for their class and enjoy a snack afterwards. In the Summer Term Year 6 take part in a half-day retreat at the Parish Centre. Foundation/Key Stage 1 classes have a liturgy on the school field followed by a drink and a snack.

Mass for the end of Term – for the whole school led by Year 6, with each child receiving a crucifix and named prayer card. Parents/families invited to attend.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship is evaluated regularly by the SLT and Catholic Ethos Committee 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

Resources are kept in the RE cupboard. There are bibles/candles/crosses/rosary beads/crucifixes/stones/flowers/prayer books/liturgical drapes etc. for staff and children to use for class prayer focuses and areas around the school for RE displays. There are also topic boxes for Judaism and Islam.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Each year in the spring term all teaching staff have a 2 day retreat to be reflective and spiritual. This is planned by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. One of the days is a Spiritual retreat day with a focus, liturgy and planned activities, with a mass at the end of the day. One of the priests joins us where possible for the two days. The other day has a curriculum focus but begins with a liturgy. All INSET days begin with a liturgy.

TA's are invited to a voluntary half-day retreat in the summer term at the Parish Centre.

At the end of each term all staff (teachers and support) take part in a celebration circle for the term, which includes a liturgy.

Equal Opportunities

1. Our mission statement and school aims state that 'we recognise the importance of fostering understanding and respect for other cultures, traditions and faiths'.

As a Christian community people are regarded as individuals and so are values respected regardless of race, colour, culture, gender or innate ability. Children of other faiths, who are supportive of our ethos, attend our school and are accorded the

respect of their faith. We encourage all our children to take an active part in masses and collective worship. All parents (as stated in our prospectus) have the right to withdraw their child from all parts of collective worship.

Other Faiths

The school sets aside two weeks of the academic year to study Judaism (Autumn term), Islam (Summer term) and Key Stage assemblies, those weeks reflect our understanding and respect of other cultures and faiths. Quality resources have been purchased /developed to ensure that learning is as hands on as possible. Links have been made with the local community so that members of each community can come and talk about their faith.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs Kathryn Beaven (Deputy Headteacher) is the Coordinator for Collective Worship, R.E and EPR for the school.

The Curriculum and Catholic Ethos Committee

The committee monitor collective worship development within the school and report to the full governing body

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school on a termly basis.

Appendix 1.

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is an action 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 Head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

PLANNING, RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING.

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- 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 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 Parish Priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- 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, with the co-ordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the co-ordinator to lead this group.)