

Collective Worship Policy January 2017

Prayer and 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 with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. It is an integral part of the life of the Catholic school, putting Christ at the centre of education, helping to create and sustain the Catholic ethos, making it tangible.



'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'
John 10: 10

The Daily Act of Worship

The legal requirement

The legal requirement (Section 70 of the 1998 Education Act) is that 'subject to the parental right of exclusion or other special arrangement each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.'

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 for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. Simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer said either by the teacher or everyone present does not fulfil this requirement. However, in a Catholic school it is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life, which contributes to its distinctiveness.

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 Aims

The daily act of worship aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and to give honour, praise and thanks to Him
- 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 learn and use 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

A liturgical structure

- ❖ Gather - how we come together, the setting, the environment
- ❖ Listen - the Word of God is proclaimed
- ❖ Response - the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action
- ❖ Mission - giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Key features

- Keep it short
- Make it regular
- Keep it simple
- Provide variety
- Get children involved
- The act of worship follows a liturgical structure, Gathering, Listen, Response, Mission
- There is a clear theme and message
- The choice of themes reflects the traditions, customs and practice of the seasons and feasts of the Church
- A 'sacred space' is created through a focal point, music etc.
- Scripture is given prominence
- Liturgical responses and actions are used
- There is a variety of approaches
- Individual and communal prayer in a variety of forms
- The act of worship is separated from administration

The place of Collective Worship in the life of St George's school

We believe 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
- . Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an 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. Prayers are said in class at the beginning and end of the day and before lunch. Assemblies take place throughout the week and allow the larger school community to pray together.

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated 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.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors and chaplaincy team play a very important role in this.

