

*COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY  
Saint Aidan's Catholic Primary School*



*C*hrist is at the centre of all we do.

*H*ere we value each other as a unique child of God and a citizen of the future.

*R*espect for everyone and the world in which we live in is at the heart of our catholic teaching and learning.

*I*n our Catholic Primary School we nurture, educate and inspire the whole child to develop independence and confidence so as to reach their full potential.

*S*piritual, social, moral, and cultural growth is actively encouraged through prayer, study, worship, and creative liturgy, also the wider life of the school is nurtured and developed.

*T*ogether we create a safe happy healthy and welcoming environment for all who enter our school community.

*Love God, Love one another.*

## **THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

It is an intrinsic part of who we are and why we are a Catholic school.

## **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 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. As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion". In this school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it including:

- 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 another faith background.

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 our Catholic tradition.

### **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 enrich religious experience

To grow in liturgical understanding and development

To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition

To reinforce positive attitudes

To participate fully

To take time out to reflect and wonder

## PRINCIPLES

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

Give glory and honour to God via the Trinity

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

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be appropriately paced - 5-10 mins for Key Stage 1 and approx. 10 mins for Key Stage 2.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Be organised and designed by the children using the Gather, Word, Response, Mission structure suggested by Shrewsbury Diocese.

## WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TIMETABLE

### EYFS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

### KS1 and KS2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In Class	Led by SLT (Zoom or Hall)	In Class	In Class	Led by SLT (Zoom or Hall)

**We also have special assemblies/liturgies for Advent, Lent, Easter Crowning of Mary and CAFOD, Mission Together and other events throughout the year.**

## **PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Scripture is the main focus of most acts of worship.

Acts of Worship:

- follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' significant dates and the curriculum. There is a whole school collective worship planner (c/f separate document) which sets out the themes for each week.
- Are flexible to respond to changing situations in school and the wider community.
- Develop skills in children, which will enable them to prepare and organise worship in a meaningful and positive way.

## **RECORDING**

Collective Worship is recorded in a variety of ways through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and videos. Each class has their own collective worship box and keeps a record of prayer sessions in a class prayer book which contains some examples of work and planning sheets.

There is also a school book of Reflections on God's Word linked to the Tuesday Assembly.

## **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.

## **RESOURCES**

There is a very comprehensive list of resources in the Subject Leader's File. Resources are spread between Staff Room, Library, and Head's Office. Music, and materials needed for class prayer areas are kept in the store room opposite Y3 or in the Head's office.

## **RETREATS**

### **The whole school have Retreat Days in school at Lent and Easter**

- Staff attend Bi-annual RE and Retreat/Reflection Days within the Wythenshawe Catholic Cluster.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

The Sacramental Programme takes place in the Parish. The school contributes through curriculum R.E., support through displays, and helping the children to write prayers for the First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion masses.

We gather together as a whole school for the celebration of Mass at the beginning and end of each term, half termly if possible and to celebrate feast days. Masses take place in school. We aim to ensure through this act of collective worship that children actively participate.

We are also keen that these Collective Worship opportunities are shared with our families and dates of worship in the Hall are sent to parents.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Liturgical Year**

- During Advent we gather together, to light the advent wreath and discuss our thoughts and prayers for Advent. Displays reflect the season and the liturgical colours. At the end of the Advent season we celebrate with a whole school mass.
- The Christmas story is traditionally retold in the nativity play performed by the children across the school
- During Lent the children make promises, attend mass and penitential services. Again, the children actively participate in the readings, prayers and singing.
- During Lent time is taken to reflect upon our own lives and the needs of others, this theme is reflected in all assemblies during Lent. During Holy Week we set aside time to reflect upon the Passion of Christ. This has been reflected through whole school assemblies each morning during Holy Week with classes joining together to retell the events in a very poignant way. The conclusion to the term ends with a Passion mass.
- Year 6 lead a Stations of the Cross Assembly which is another opportunity for our children to understand the events of Holy Week whilst at the same time making links and asking questions of the relevance of this story for our lives today.
- The joy of the Risen Christ is celebrated at the beginning of the Summer term with an Easter Mass. The theme of rejoice is reflected in the readings and prayers in both this whole school mass and class acts of collective worship.
- During May and October special devotion is given to Our Lady. We also hold a Rosary assembly and a crowning of Our Lady.
- At Pentecost we celebrate the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Fundraising and praying for our chosen charities (Mission Together, Caritas and Cafod) takes place all year round

## **ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is the RE Co-ordinator, who will be responsible for ensuring Collective Worship:

- Forms part of the RE action plan.
- Ensures a written policy for Collective Worship exists.
- Is appropriate to the age, ability and family backgrounds of the children.
- Takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Is organised into themes for worship.
- Is carried out in accordance with the school's legal responsibilities for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator will ensure that:

- Planning, recording monitoring and evaluation are effectively developed.
- Positive links and attitudes are maintained between parents, parish, governors and diocese.
- Appropriate courses and training are attended and the staff are led and organised for in-service training and updates on developments and content.
- Resources are evaluated and made available for Collective Worship.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored and reviewed by the RE Co-ordinator, whole school staff and governors every two years. The RE link Governor/s in particular will play a most important role in the monitoring of provision.

**Reviewed January 2022**