

# Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

This policy was approved by	
Name	
Position	
Date	Jan 21
Review Date	Jan 23

### Mission Statement

Our school is a place where we respect the views and value the opinions of everyone.

We encourage the development of behaviour and attitudes which reflect the life of Christ and the teachings of the gospel and so nurture the appreciation of every individual regardless of race, gender, colour or creed.

We endeavour to involve teachers, parents, governors and the wider community in the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social development of our children. We strive to help our young people become more independent, making their own decisions and taking responsibility for themselves and others.

**“Jesus holds my hand and guides me on my way”**

## Collective Worship Policy

**“At Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School we encourage our children to be a living example within the community taking Jesus as the guidance for their actions – *Jesus holds our hand and guides on our way.*”**

(Our School Mission Statement)

### **Introduction to Collective Worship in our Catholic School**

Collective worship in a Catholic school is concerned with the revelation of God’s presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective Worship should strengthen this Eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective Worship is this community’s response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **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 by either 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 considered as part of the RE lesson (for time purposes).

In this voluntary aided Catholic school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

### **Definitions**

#### ***Liturgy***

Liturgy literally means ‘work of the people’ and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action.

#### ***Prayer***

One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God.” These words of St John Damascene, now found in the catechism, illustrate why in this Catholic school we begin and end each day with a prayer.

### ***Collective Worship***

Collective Worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship with God made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

## **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. 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 community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community
- To develop the necessary skills of: reverence
  - contemplation
  - reflection
  - interpretation
  - empathy
  - meditation

which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys
- To develop the skills of prayer

## **Implementation**

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible)
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery

Collective Worship in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:

**Gathering** -how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc)

**Word** - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source) sharing the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme

**Action** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc)

**Mission** - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

At Holy Spirit, we recognise that Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. There are many occasions however when an assembly can be an appropriate setting for worship. At Holy Spirit we try to relate our Collective Worship to our day to day life, our aspirations, our sense of awe and wonder, and our school ethos.

Assemblies at Holy Family may include:

- Prayers
- Hymns
- Reflective music
- Readings
- Opportunities for silent prayer
- Reflection
- Drama

Assembly Timetable

Monday – Whole School

Thursday – KS2 Reflection and Hymns/Class led assembly

Friday – Whole school celebration of achievements

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

In this voluntary aided Catholic school, it is the overall responsibility of Governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality Collective Worship are being delivered.

This policy is monitored by the Leadership Team and Religious Education Coordinator and reviewed by the whole school staff on a yearly basis. Governors review reports on all the aspects of Religious Education on a termly basis. This will form part of the Headteacher's Report to Governors.

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for Collective Worship
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy
- Whether Collective Worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer

- Impact on pupils and members of the school community
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer

The Religious Education Coordinator is provided with time to monitor and observe all aspects of Religious Education. Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and Governors, with recommendations for future action.

### **The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship**

The coordinator will be responsible for:

- Formulating a written policy
- Ensuring there is a development plan for Collective Worship
- 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 Catholic teachings
- Assisting the Governors and Headteacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards Collective Worship

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – HOW?**

Should provide a variety of experiences which:

- ◆ Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors
- ◆ Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or short address
- ◆ Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of pupils
- ◆ Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- ◆ Can be offered for a class, a year group, a phase or whole school
- ◆ Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- ◆ Respect the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- ◆ Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present