



# Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School

'Christ in the centre, excellence at the heart'

## Mission Statement

To provide a	Catholic Education, embracing world faiths,
Nurturing	Happy and motivated children
Who want to	Reach to achieve high expectations
	In partnership with parents
	Supported by a committed staff and Governing Body
Who help children	To feel self-worth and know success

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approving Committee:	LGB	
Approved / Adopted Date:	Autumn 2021	
Signed:	J Connolly	(Chair of approving/adopting committee)
Next Review Date:	Autumn 2025	

## **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 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 into 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 LGB 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.

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 opportunities 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 to 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 wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to,'

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- 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, collective worship will:

- Be undertaken in small groups sometimes to help to personalise the experience;
- Be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5 -6 mins. For Key Stage 1 pupils and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2 pupils).
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Follow a set pattern of gathering, listening, responding and going forth/mission (see appendix 1)

## **Collective Worship at St. Peter's is organised as follows:**

- Monday - KS1 and KS2 Act of Worship in class
- Tuesday - Whole School Head Teacher Act of Worship 9.15-9.30
- Wednesday - KS1 & KS2 Act of Worship in class, or Hymn Practice
- Thursday - KS2 Act of Worship in class or class/whole school Masses KS1 Act of Worship 3pm Hall
- Friday - Whole school Act of Worship and General Assembly 9.15-9.45

## **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's Seasons, 'Come and See', 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 in children skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- To include the celebration of children's achievements and talents
- Statements to live by - used to plan Acts of Worship

## **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner (see staffroom notice board) to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through plays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos (in accordance with School Policy of Confidentiality) 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. Regular reviews of collective worship happen during the year and written formats are collected in a file as part of the information gathering/evaluation.

## **Resources**

There are a number of resources available to staff and children for use in compiling and planning Collective Worship sessions, such as 'Let Us Pray'. Some are based in teachers' classrooms and some are based in the RE cupboard in the staff room and the RE cupboard in the corridor.

## **Voluntary Worship**

There will be opportunities at times during the year for pupils in KS2 to pray, e.g. during May we say the Rosary and Easter an opportunity is given to experience the Stations of the Cross. The Prayer Room is available for pupils who want time to reflect/pray during lunchtime.

On special occasions, as a school, we take part in diocesan organised liturgies and gatherings.

## **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations will be held in church and in school. They may highlight a special occasion, such as a liturgical calendar feast or the end of a 'Come and See' theme. The celebration of Eucharist is planned to be age appropriate. There will be occasions where the whole school takes part in a Eucharistic celebration. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations resources are available in the RE cupboard in the staffroom, for example, the complete text of the Church's 'Directory for Masses with Children'. We will consult with Father Frank on a regular basis for planning these.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school, therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

## **Co-ordinators for Collective Worship**

The co-ordinators for Collective worship are Louise Swinfield and Luisa Oxley.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is a working document and as such will be reviewed, amended and revised by the Local Governing Body.

## Guidance for the Format of Liturgies

Generally speaking each liturgy should follow the four part structure set out below:

### Gathering - calling God's people together

**Create a focal point**, a display or table with artefacts linked to the theme of the liturgy (not too cluttered). Maybe **use instrumental music** to create an atmosphere. Think about the arrangement of furniture to create a formal/informal setting. **Choose an opening song to reflect the mood** of the liturgy.

### Listening - Liturgy of the Word

Try to build a scripture reflection, by **selecting phrases or parts of readings, punctuated with a sung response** (make up the response and use familiar tunes to back them e.g. nursery rhymes). If it is going to be a **Gospel reading sing an Alleluia (Gospel Acclamation)**.

### Responding - from Word to Action

**Use gestures** to respond to the reading. Keep them simple and easy to follow. If not practicable to include all children, select a group. Help the children to reflect on the readings, making them relevant to us in our lives today. **Write prayers on the main themes** and **use a response or mantra** (repeated phrase). Children may have made **something they could bring to the focus table/display** and repeat a phrase as they present their contribution.

### Mission

Our encounter with God is to change us, strengthen us and enable us to better "love and serve the Lord" and each other. Try to reflect this in a **closing prayer and/or song that points to how what we celebrate in the liturgy extends to the classroom ... the home ... the world.**

#### Types/styles of prayer

- Spontaneous - where people just say out what their prayer is (a bit like brain storming). The teacher can change the focus after a few seconds.
- Mantra - repeated word(s)/phrase(s)
- Squeeze prayer - where children hold hands in a circle and squeeze the hand of the next person when they have finished their contribution or just want to pass onto the next person (could use an artefact to pass around, a bit like the 'circle' in circle time)
- Prayer walk - where children walk to an area and nominated people pray on behalf of the group
- Repeat after me prayer - self explanatory
- Teaspoon prayer (tsp) - thank you, sorry, please
- Alphabet prayer - self explanatory
- Choose a colour to represent an emotion that children can express in prayer
- Eyes open - get children to 'look' at one or two things and focus on them in prayer
- Audio-visual-kinaesthetic prayer - from an agreed focus get children to create an image with their movement while they recite/read their prayer. They may find pictures or bring photos that portray the prayer
- Substitute - children work in groups of four and select a prayer theme, each one different. One child goes into the middle, the substitute, representing their theme while the others pray. If given beforehand each substitute can discover one piece of information for praise and one for intercession.
- Rugby Team - children form a huddle and choose a colour or word to describe what it feels like to be a part of that group.
- Change the pose - children may try sitting, standing, lying for prayers
- Piggy-back prayer - where a child builds on the prayer of the previous person