



Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

This Mission Statement reflects the views of our pupils, staff and parents

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

- I know that God made me and that he loves me very much.
- I want to grow in God's love and be the best that I can be.
- Every day I will get to know God better in prayer and meditation.
- I will always follow the school rules because I know that they are there to help me and to make this a happy school where children can learn.
- I will show care and respect for everyone I meet at all times.
- I will always try my best, even when I find things difficult.
- I will come to school every day unless I am really too ill to attend.
- I will always tell the truth, even if I have done wrong.
- I will take care of the school building, grounds and everything in it.
- My parents and everyone who works at Saint John Fisher will work together and always try their best to help me make the most of my God-given talents.

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1. 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.

2. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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.

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.

3. Aims

We believe that Collective Worship in our school should 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 wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

4. 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;
- Develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.¹
In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate 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 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2*);
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

5. Timetable for Collective Worship

Eucharist

The celebration of the Eucharist is central to our Catholic Life and Collective Worship. In addition to Mass for specific feast days, it is celebrated in school to highlight special occasions. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate in the will be maximised.

Yearly Overview: This is outlined as part of the yearly Task Planner and the ‘Church Year’ schedule.

Weekly Timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hall			9.10am KS1 Liturgy Led SLT, Teachers & Chaplaincy Team	9.10am KS2 Liturgy Led SLT, Teachers & Chaplaincy Team	2.30 Good to be Green / Good Work Assembly Led SLT
Class	Daily Prayers in all classes including Traditional Prayers which reflect the Liturgical Year (see Task Planner)				
Class	Daily Meditation in all classes				
Class	Child led Class Liturgy in all classes once a week (often at the start of RE lesson)				

6. Resources

The provision of resources for Collective Worship is reviewed by the RE Subject Leader. Each class has a liturgy box containing a variety of resources for collective worship, including coloured cloths to reflect the Liturgical Season of the Church. In KS1, each child has access to a children's Bible which they take home at key points in the Church's Liturgical Year. In KS2 class sets of Good News Bibles are available. A variety of Liturgy books are easily accessible in the hall for all staff. In addition, the vestments and requirements for Mass are stored in the Hub.

7. Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The Chaplaincy Team meet weekly to pray, prepare Key Stage or Whole School Liturgies, prepare Bible stories to share with the younger children and evaluate prayer focus areas around the school.

The Year 6 children make an annual retreat to The Briars, Crich in the last term. It is an opportunity to reflect on their own spiritual journey and look forward to Key Stage 3 and its challenges.

8. Parish Links

Close links to English Martyrs parish are fostered through various shared Masses and Liturgies at the Church throughout the year, which are set out in the Task Planner the and 'Church Year' schedule. Parishioners are also warmly welcomed to join staff and children from Masses and Liturgies in school throughout the year.

Policy review

This policy is reviewed every two years by the RE Subject Leader and the Head Teacher. The scheduled review date for this policy is July 2019.

Signed

Chair of Directors

Date