



St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

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.

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.

The 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 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;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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

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 and each House Group prepares a Mass during the year. 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 'Mass, Liturgies, Nativities and Achievement Assemblies' schedule.

Weekly Timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hall	9.15am KS 2 Liturgy Led by Chaplains & EF	9.15 KS 1 Liturgy Led by EF			2.30 Good to be Green Assembly Led by CE
Class	Daily Prayers in all classes including Traditional Prayers which reflect the Liturgical Year (see Task Planner)				
Class	Daily Meditation in all classes				
Class				1.10 pm Child led Class Liturgy in all classes	

Resources

The provision of resources for Collective Worship is reviewed by the RE Co-ordinator. 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.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

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.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and directors every three years.

Approved by Directors Signature

..... Date

..... Review Date

