



St Godric's RC Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

We love, respect and value each other



St Godric's RC School Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

We love, respect and value.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective 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 celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Godric's RC Primary School

Worship 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St Godric's RC Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- To respond to and to 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 pray using 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 St Godric's RC Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can 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.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Staff prayer will be offered to all members of the staff community. Prayer sessions are held at the beginning of every staff meeting and at the start of every term.

Collective Worship is conducted as below.

- Whole school collective worship – Monday
- Key Stage 1 collective worship – Thursday
- Key Stage 2 collective worship – Tuesday
- KS1 Liturgy for parent – termly
- KS2 Liturgy for parents termly
- Pupils led Collective Worship – weekly in KS2 at the end of a topic in KS1

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead collective worship. The Deputy Headteacher and School Chaplain will also be given an opportunity once a term to lead Collective Worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Pupil led collective worship is recorded in files and stored on the Chaplain's shelves.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is observed throughout the year by the RE subject leader, the Deputy Headteacher and the School Chaplain.

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

All classes have their own box of collective worship artefacts. Additionally, the Chaplain has a number of artefacts which are stored on her shelving and available by request.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

The staff all participate in an Advent retreat in school, in addition the Chaplain is encouraged to attend the retreat for all chaplains. Staff are informed of any other retreats available to them and welcome to attend, school budget allowing.

Other opportunities

Each KS2 class attends Mass once every four weeks on a Wednesday in St Bede's Chapel. Parents and parish are also welcome to attend. If father is not available, then the children attend a Service of the Word.

In addition, Masses are held to celebrate festivals such as Christmas, Easter, All Saints, St Peter and St Paul Harvest and Ash Wednesday. Masses are also held to celebrate the start and end of each school year

Eucharist

When Father is unable to celebrate Mass then the children participate in a Service of the Word, led by a member of the parish.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

This role is shared by Mrs Catherine Craig and Mrs Julie Wilmore

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]