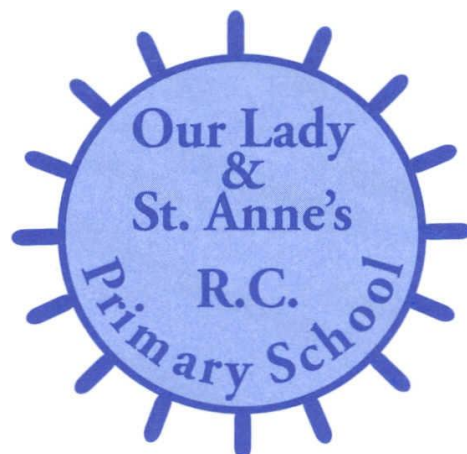




# Collective Worship Policy

## 2016-2017



**School: Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary School**

**Head Teacher: Michael O'Brien**

**Named personnel with designated responsibility for Collective Worship:**

Academic year	Head Teacher	Designated Lead	Chair of Governors
2016-17	Michael O'Brien	Samantha Henzell	Christine Baker

**Policy review dates:**

Review Date	Changes made	By whom	Date Shared
July 2017	Policy Written	Samantha Henzell	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017



## **Safeguarding Statement**

At Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Our Lady & St Anne's RC Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

School Aims

## **Mission Statement**

*We want the best teaching, the best opportunities and the best support and encouragement for every child. We are a friendly, happy, Catholic school, where everyone is valued for their individuality and special gifts.*

## **School Motto**

## **Our Light Shines Always (OLSA)**

### **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.'<sup>1</sup>

## **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 head teacher.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005



## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our Lady and St. Anne'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 Our Lady and St. Anne'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
- 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 Our Lady and St. Anne'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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.



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

The Head teacher leads staff in prayer twice a week during staff meetings and all staff are present during whole school Collective Worship every Monday.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Monday am – Whole school Collective Worship

Wednesday pm – Whole school prayer

Friday pm – Whole school prayer

All classes carry out their own Collective Worship within their classrooms and sometimes classes invite parents. All classes say school prayers throughout the school day

### **Leading collective worship**

As faith leader of the school, the Head teacher will plan and lead collective worship. Both the Deputy Head teacher and Assistant Head teacher also lead the school in prayer. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded by observations and in RE books when the children carry out their own class liturgies.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored through observations and book scrutinies.

Collective Worship is monitored using a Collective Worship monitoring form, (see coordinator file).

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

### **Resources**

The RE Coordinator is responsible for monitoring resources across the school.

### **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'<sup>3</sup>

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**

Diocesan Youth Village

### **Other opportunities**

First Friday Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005



Termly school Masses

### **Eucharist**

Our Year 4 class prepares for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and throughout the school year they attend Mass as part of this. We aim to take the children to Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on a monthly basis where children who have made their First Holy Communion are able to take the Eucharist. School and staff Masses also provide opportunities for staff and pupils to take Communion.

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher (also RE Coordinator) are responsible for Collective Worship in school.

### **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**

- 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.]*