



Cheadle Catholic Infant School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

*Our mission is to provide an excellent education
for all the children in our schools.*

We aim

to create a happy learning environment

inspired by the teachings of Jesus

and

to provide a broad and balanced curriculum

in partnership with parents and the parish communities.

As Catholic educators we are privileged to fulfil the mission Jesus gave us:

'Go out and teach all nations.'

We aim to provide opportunities which challenge and enrich the religious experiences of all who share them, deepening their sense of belonging to the faith community of the school and parish and ensuring that all these experiences are worthwhile, positive celebrations which prepare children for the liturgical life of the church.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school should provide all pupils and staff with the opportunity to:

- enrich their religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding and development
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- participate fully
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- respond to and celebrate life
- contemplate something of the mystery of God.

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. Children are encouraged to participate in a variety of celebrations developing their sense of belonging to the community. Prayer and worship opportunities in the classroom, hall and outside areas enable children to develop their own abilities to deal with the experiences of daily life with growing personal insights, expressing their own thoughts and feelings.

The range of opportunities for collective worship, individual prayer and reflection in school include:

- Whole school assembly

These can take one of four forms:

- (i) Led by Headteacher with reflections on Gospel readings, seasons of the Church's calendar, relevant PHSE topics, celebration of achievements, birthdays.
- (ii) Led by one of the parish priests with prayers by the children to celebrate specific Holy Days when they occur within the school term e.g. Ash Wednesday, Saint Peter and Paul's day, All Saints Day.
- (iii) Led by a guest speaker such as a member of CAFOD, 'Mission Together' or the local food bank.
- (iv) Led by a designated class of children - 3 classes within a year group each term. Often these have a focus linked to 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' topic the children are studying but can be linked to the church calendar or

PHSE topics. Class assemblies develop the children's creativity in planning and presenting celebrations.

* Parents, carers, family and friends are also invited to share in the celebration of each Class Assembly on a separate occasion.

- Weekly classroom prayer, liturgy and thanksgiving initially delivered by the class teacher within the classroom but with an increasing input from the children as they develop skills that will enable them to prepare, organise and lead the worship.
- Daily class prayer and worship within the classroom.
- 'Prayer Friend' time.
Each child in Year 2 is matched up with a child in one of the Reception classes to support and encourage the younger members of the school in the development of their faith. These children meet together at points throughout the year to pray and reflect.

*In addition to the above, members of the school community-parents, carers, governors and priests are invited to further opportunities to celebrate, pray, reflect and sing together with the children enriching the religious experience of adults and children both individually and communally.

- Class 'Services of the Word', celebrated in the presence of one of the Parish Priests.
- 'Advent Service: 'Carols by Candlelight', led by Year2 and held in one of the parish churches.
- 'The Travelling Crib' and 'The Lenten Cross' are distributed throughout the families in each class on a daily basis in Advent and Lent to develop prayer life at home.
- Reconciliation Services in each parish church
- Holy Week/Easter services in school
- Thank You Assembly led by the children in Year 1
- Leavers Service of Thanksgiving

Partnerships are encouraged between home, school and parish in line with the Mission Statement and more strongly throughout the Sacramental programme.

Parents and carers are encouraged to attend meetings in both school and parish where they are supported in developing their own spiritual understanding and that of their

children. In school teachers follow the 'Making Things Right' workbook which leads the children through the Reconciliation journey. Lessons are taught in school and activities are completed at home. Every week parents and carers are fully informed of what their child has been taught in school and of the activity to be completed.

Planning and Recording

Class collective worship is planned with reference to the liturgical year, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' scheme of work and PHSE topics and is recorded on a separate planning sheet

Resources

Each class has an altar draped in the colours of the liturgical year, a class bible, a holding cross, a buddy, a candle, a living plant, a class prayer book and the targets of the 'Way, Truth and Life' topic displayed nearby. These are rotated on a regular basis and a small section kept on each class altar to form a focal point for class collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Each class collective worship and assembly is evaluated by the class teacher and children are encouraged to play a part in this process knowing that their views are valued and respected.

Legal requirements

Whilst we acknowledge that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils, 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.

In line with the whole school policies for special educational needs and equal opportunities, all children receive their entitlement to daily collective worship.

In this school as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the staff.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE/Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated by the whole staff and governors.

Helen O'Reilly 2019

Ratified at Full Governing Body Meeting July 2019

