



St. John Fisher Catholic
Primary School

Growing through God, we learn, laugh and love.

Collective Worship Policy

- Date of Policy : March 2019
- Member of Staff responsible : RE Co-Ordinator Clare Hodgkins
- Date of next review : March 2021

St John Fisher Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Growing through God, we learn, laugh and love.

Guided by the Gospel, safe in God's love, growing in His grace.

Reaching higher, rewarding achievements, rejoicing.

Overcoming obstacles, opening possibilities, outstanding for all.

Worship and wonder; welcome and warmth.

Teaching as a team, talking together.

Hopes and dreams fulfilled; happiness, fun and laughter in learning.

Aims

Through living out the Christian values of love and respect, forgiveness and freedom.

Providing opportunities for all to fully develop their full potential.

Developing community cohesion through working in partnership with home, parish and the wider community.

Introduction

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 relationships, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School

We endorse the belief that 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. We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father, daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age.

This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence.
- Spontaneous prayer.
- Praying through gesture or action.
- Formal prayer.

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, lunchtime and in the evening. 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.

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 that are part of the Catholic tradition.

- To reinforce positive attitudes.
- To participate fully.
- To make time 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.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience.
- Be short and appropriately paced.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday:	KS1 assembly based on liturgical year and school themes.
Tuesday:	Hymn Practice
Wednesday:	KS2 assembly based on liturgical year and school themes.
Friday:	Whole School Assembly led by class or head teacher including certificates, school news and attendance awards.

During the week Collective Worship will take place in individual classes daily.

Planning

Collective Worship in this school is planned through themes following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Way, The Truth and The Life, significant dates and the curriculum.

Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship.

It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission.

There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources.
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally in the RE cupboard and are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Class Masses and Liturgies.
- Key Stage Liturgies.
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at school or St John Fisher Church.

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y4. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Fr Joe for these children to participate in.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors.

Signed (Chair of Governors) Date

Signed (Headteacher) Date