



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy School

Collective Worship Policy

2022-2023

'Belong, Believe, Blossom'

Rationale: Why is Collective Worship Important in our schools?

Britain is a multicultural and multi-faith society. In the context, collective worship remains an essential part of the life of every school. For community schools and academies just as much as in denominational faith school. Many schools continue to hold acts of collective worship because of the value to the school community and to children's broader educational development. Collective worship offers all schools the chance to explore and understand the values at the heart of the ethos. From forgiveness and humility, to gratitude and justice, collective worship gives pupils a space and time to reflect.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirements that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The law requires the act of worship be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and under recent Government instruction (November, 2014). We aim to include opportunities in Collective Worship for students to explore and learn about British Values and other faiths.

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 rest with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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 gather, to listen to the word of God, respond to scripture, and to go out and live God's mission.
- 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 a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- To reinforce positive attitudes.

- To participate fully by singing hymns and saying prayers in a reverent manner.
- 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
- 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 help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced (children's attentions span)
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

What does Collective Worship look like in our school?

Monday-Friday Lay Chaplin's visiting classrooms each morning to deliver prayers, the weekly statements to live by and the Wednesday Word.

Classroom based collective worships; prayers, scripture stories, celebrations from the main aspect of these worships

Monday afternoons-Choir Practice

Thursday-Whole School Hymn Practice.

Friday- the Good News Celebration Liturgy/Assembly-Headteacher and class teacher's 'star of the week award' and achievements celebrated and offered to God, in a collective act of worship.

Collective Worship planned half termly and shared with other classes and parents.

Friday- Whole School pupil led Collective Worships; year groups invite all year groups to attend acts of collective worship which take place in the hall.

Mini Vinnies-Pupil led chaplaincy which meet weekly and hold a pray group together.

All Collective Worship takes place in school and on special occasions takes place in the parish church.

Half termly whole school masses

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See' significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will focus in most acts of worship.
- Using the Let's Prayer together resources to support pupil planning.
- Using Ten: Ten Resources to support pupil planning.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community for example charitable events, worldwide issues/events etc. We will aim to teach the children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.
- To develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather always participating or contributing in a taken way.
- Adults who plan for Friday Act of Worship must complete and hand these to the RE SLT. Other plans created by children, are to be kept in by the teacher and placed in their own Collective Worship folder and at the back of pupils books, in response booklets.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil gatherings and resources
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos and the use of Seesaw.

- Pupils completing Respond 'Come and See' Collective Worship Liturgies.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision for worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Termly Acts of Worship will be evaluated, either formally through discussion and comment or using a liturgy evaluation sheet. These will be collated regularly in the School Evidence Folder.

Once a year 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.

The style and nature of our Acts of Worship will continually be open to the needs of our community and be open to incorporating new ideas and experiences, whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. For teachers planning information and resources can be found on the staff shared Collective Worship file. The Collective Worship trolley is stored in the hall and we aim to update these resources regularly as possible. Resources in Collective Worship trolley include: books, prayers, candles, cloths, crosses, praying hands, pebbles etc.

Mass and Class Liturgy

Eucharistic celebrations form a very important part of Collective Worship. Opportunities for Children to plan and participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The whole school or class masses are published on the website in weekly newsletters.

The celebrations will take the following:

- Whole school Masses, ensuring we celebrate Holy Days of Obligation when they occur during the school year. We also celebrate St Charles' Borromeo feast day on the 4th November.
- Whole school events and class liturgy are celebrated in Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, the Advent Wreath Blessing, Reconciliation Services in Advent and Lent and seasonal prayer trails.

- Children will be encouraged to participate in school-lead Sunday masses.

At Key Stage One

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word.

At Key Stage Two

- Short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety.
- Occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rite in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

The lead for Collective Worship is Bernadette Quirke

The foundation governor lead is Monica Watson.

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 governors every year.