



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'

Collective Worship Policy

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| Committee responsible for policy | Curriculum and Achievement |
| Co-ordinator | Fearghal Nash |
| Statutory/Non-statutory | Non STATUTORY |
| Frequency of Review | Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required |
| Date of last review Approved by Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB | October 2022 |
| Date of next review | October 2025 |
| Purpose of policy | To ensure all staff understand the legal requirements for collective worship |
| Consultation | Staff |
| Links to other policies | All other subject policies Curriculum, Marking, Planning |

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic School exists to provide an Education that is God centred. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and builds on the faith already established by the family through Baptism. 'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'.

We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents and everyone in the school to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. All are made welcome and the worth of each is recognised, valued and celebrated.

With the mission statement in mind, St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

- believes in a partnership between home, school and parish in which each child experiences a living faith based on the teachings of Christ
- endeavours to create a caring environment where each child, being unique and individual, has the opportunity to fulfil their potential aims for excellence in all areas of the curriculum
- strives towards achieving good working relationship and open communication, with children and adults being supported, respected and valued

The Nature of Collective Worship

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 relationship, 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 (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). We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

1. It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.
2. 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 need to 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.

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

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.

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 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 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 attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2).
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- planned and lead by children where possible.

At St. Edmund's

- We hold child led collective acts of worship in our classrooms.
- On Monday the act of worship takes place as a whole school in the hall.
- We have Key Stage class lead assemblies for every class
- We worship as a school at Church, Holy Mass on Holy Days and Junior children attend Mass each Wednesday
- Children visit the church throughout the year for different topics
- Every Friday our whole school community stops to say the Angelus.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship Collective Worship is planned:

- Following the structure of gather, Word, response, mission with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- 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
- to develop in pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship may be recorded:

- through the scripts of class assemblies
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- through plans for child led collective worship being kept in RE books.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship is evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. This will be through:

- Observing Acts of Worship throughout the school
- Pictures, children's contributions, feedback from parents/community and photos are gathered for RE portfolio
- Assembly scripts
- RE Book

Resources

We have a central resource area in school where we keep religious objects and literature to assist with planning collective acts of worship. An area of each classroom is kept as a focus area for prayer and these are changed in accordance with the current theme or season.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship is Mr Nash

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 three years. The Named Governor for RE, in particular, will play a most important role.

Date October 2022

Chair of Governors:

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family 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

PLANNING, RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

COMMUNICATION

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts 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 parish priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan Education Service

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- 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