

“Each one of you is a child of God” Pope Francis



**All Saints is educating for Unity, Responsibility, Courage,
Wisdom and Generosity**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction.

- This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at All Saints' Catholic Primary School.
- It has been developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff.
- It will be reviewed each year by the whole school in consultation with the Governing Body.

Collective worship in All Saints' Catholic Primary School is an integral part of school life. While respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it is Catholic in character and has Christ at its heart. It celebrates God's presence in our lives and is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It reflects the tradition of the Church and its belief in the Holy Trinity.

The Purpose of Collective Worship.

- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development.
- To provide opportunity for children to share and express their thoughts and feelings.
- To give glory, honour, thanks and praise to God.

Aims of Collective Worship.

- Foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and action
- To develop spirituality and enable 'communication' with God.
- Provide different opportunities for pupils and staff to worship God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the wider community it serves.
- To enable children to gain insight into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional and spiritual response.
- To encourage participation and response, through active involvement in the planning and presentation of worship.
- To develop community spirit and encourage a sense of belonging, promoting a common ethos and shared values which reinforce positive attitudes.

Objectives of Collective Worship.

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery.
- Interdependence with the natural world.
- Pattern, sequence and order.
- Self-worth and value of others.

To develop awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships.
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

At All Saints, all collective worship is based on the principles that it will be:

- Spiritual.
- Reflective.
- Inclusive.
- Relevant.

Collective Worship also contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They are seen as special times, concerned with the glory and honour of God. Children feel secure and relaxed in a friendly, prayerful atmosphere which fosters positive feelings and a sense of community. Children are encouraged to participate in all areas of the preparation and delivery of Collective Worship.

Principles of Collective Worship.

All acts of worship in All Saints will be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experiences and relevant to their lives.
- Acknowledge diversity.
- Involve pupils as active participants.
- Match the needs of pupils.
- Foster a sense of community.

They will be spiritual:

- Time for stillness and reflection.
- A special time – conducive to worship.
- Children will feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Include a variety of words, music and images.
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities.
- Provide opportunity for children to take an active part in worship.

Collective Worship could be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain:

- Related to learning experiences across the curriculum.
- Related to pupils own life experiences.
- Celebrate educational achievements and talents.

How Collective Worship is organised.

In order to achieve a sense of belonging and a common ethos, we try to involve as many of our school community as possible. Teachers plan and enable collective worship to take place each day.

Occasions for worship include prayer times, assemblies, circle prayer, sharing assemblies, Masses both at Church and at school.

During our celebrations we try to:

- Make our Collective Worship appropriate for our children
- To include all who are attending by ensuring the possibility of conscious active participation of all present
- Encourage children to lead where appropriate
- To use a balance of quiet reflection, silent prayer, responses, prayer, music, songs, dance, drama, short address
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting

Collective Worship will always include the following 4 sections:

- Gathering together** - circle time, to music, light a candle etc
- Listening** - scripture
- Response** - silent time to reflect on
- Going forth** - singing/playing music, to enable the children to take the message with them

Places for Collective Worship

Collective Worship will as a rule take place on the school premises; however, we do discreetly organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

- The School Hall – “Praise God in His Holy Place” (P 100:1, P 150:1)
- Classroom / Library Area – “when two or three meet in my name I am there among them” (Mt 18:20)
- Outside – “Heaven and earth are full of your glory” (Roman Missal)
- Church – “Praise God in His Holy place” (P 150:1)

Times for Collective Worship

The Timing of the Act can be flexible and can be at any time of the day, so as to ensure it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

Formal

Whole school – Collective Worship takes place on a Friday in assembly time (9:00 – 9:30)

Informal

On the other days it is the teacher’s responsibility to choose the timings of the worship.

- Prayerful images
- Appropriate music
- Suitable lighting
- Comfortable posture
- Atmosphere of peacefulness

Prayer Table – Each classroom has a designated area for prayer. The prayer table contains a cloth, a candle, a bible, a crucifix and a focus for that topic.

Focus for Prayer – A prayer table would contain a small selection of the following:

Candles	Candles remind us that Jesus is amongst us and is the Light of the World
Bible	The word of God will be given prominence on the prayer table
Flowers/Plants	Greenery is a reminder of God’s beautiful world and of the gift of creation
Sacred images	Crucifix, statue, pictures of Jesus and Mary

Interesting objects	A variety of stones or shells give a good focus for prayer
Meaningful pictures	Pictures or photographs appropriate to the Theme
Prayer/story/poetry books	Have one open that reflects the topic being studied
Oil burners	Aromatic smells are relaxing for prayer

Each class has a 'Collective Worship' box that holds a variety of artefacts, prayer cards, materials etc for the children to select when they are to lead.

A Collective Worship calendar is being developed by the R.E. Coordinator to support staff.

At the end of each theme, each class celebrates with Rejoice assemblies. At least one formal Rejoice assembly for each class per year is held in the hall to which parents and children of all faiths are invited. Each class contributes what they have learnt about the theme, through their class topic. This gives the opportunity to see the good work and learning that has taken place in each class and the progression of the learning throughout the school.

Throughout the year special celebrations are held which encourage the children to share and quietly reflect on important events in the Church's year such as the Nativity, an Advent service, a Palm Sunday celebration or The Stations of the Cross.

Liturgies in School

Mass is celebrated throughout the school year, and on Feast days and Holydays. KS2 classes contribute to Mass by planning one significant section; the music, readings, bidding prayers or the offertory. Class masses and prayer services, to which parents and friends are invited, take place throughout the school year in the children's classrooms or in St James' Church.

Conclusion.

The experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Such values will be explored, celebrated and reflected upon in Collective Worship in a manner that compliments the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos in All Saints Catholic Primary School.