

St. Aidan's RC Primary School

Collective Worship



M. Moran

Adopted: September 2018

Review: Summer 2020



Collective Worship forms an integral part of school life where all are included and welcomed to join together in prayer.

As a Catholic Community, we are very proud of all of the opportunities the children, staff and parents of St. Aidan's have to share in the Good News.

St Aidan's RC Primary School's Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

"In the love and truth of Jesus we grow"

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St. Aidan's RC Primary School

Collective Worship forms an integral part of school life where all are included and welcomed to join together in prayer.

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.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St. Aidan's RC Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 St. Aidan's RC Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Whole School Collective Worship takes place on Monday afternoon at 2.45pm. Attendance at this Collective Worship is open to any parents, parishioners and members of the local community who wish to attend.

It will normally be led by Mrs Leslie (Headteacher), Mr Moran (Deputy Headteacher) or another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Each academic year, every class will lead two whole school collective worships. The theme can be chosen by the class themselves but usually follows the readings from the Church's cyclical calendar.

It is expected that children plan and celebrate at least one act of worship per week in class which is child lead. This is timetabled and staff can facilitate this in anyway they wish.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

The timetable of Collective Worship can be accessed on the staff 'google' drive.

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher (Mrs Leslie) will plan and lead collective worship. The Deputy Headteacher (Mr Moran) or another member of the Senior Leadership Team will lead weekly Collective Worship in the absence of Mrs Leslie. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Collective Worship may be recorded at the discretion of the class teacher. This may be in Whole Class' Floor books', RE books or a specific prayer journal, as long as there is evidence of regular Collective Worship taking place.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be monitored as part of the school's yearly Monitoring and Evaluation Cycle which will be published at the start of each term giving the focus of the scrutiny. This may be done by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or members of the governing body.

Collective Worship is monitored using the Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has access to a bag of resources which give the children the opportunity to plan and lead their own collective worships. These contain different ways the pupils can ask their classmates to participate following the structure 'Gather', 'Word', 'Respond' and 'Go Forth'.

Children and class teachers can support and allow children to lead their own worship in any way at their discretion.

Each class has a sacred space with different coloured liturgical cloths and a number of artefacts to support the children in their worship. There is a bank of further cloths and resources located in the cupboard at the back of the school hall and further resources available upon request from Mr Moran.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

Children will have the opportunity to take place in a number of activities outside of school which will support their faith development. These will include, but are not limited to, days of retreat organised by the Youth Mission Team and Diocese, festivals organised by local schools, transition days at St. Benet Biscop's Catholic High, Diocesan masses etc.

Each year, two members of staff will have the opportunity to take part in a retreat to Auschwitz.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Other opportunities

Staff prayers take place in the staffroom each Wednesday at 8.30a.m. All members of staff are welcome.

Eucharist

Mass is celebrated in school the first Friday of each month where it falls during term time. Each year group will have a smaller, more intimate mass lead by the Parish Priest, Father Shaun Purdy at least once each academic year.

Other opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist (such as Year 6 leavers mass, special celebrations such as Harvest festival mass etc.) will be provided throughout the school year.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs Leslie (Headteacher) is the co-ordinator for Collective Worship and is supported by the RE co-ordinator (Mr Moran – Deputy Headteacher).

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content 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 school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and on-going formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- 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

Year Group:

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:

Focus	Comments
<p>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children been involved in the planning? • Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 	
<p>Structure (If Liturgy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? • How did children gather? • Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? • How did children respond to the Word? • Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 	
<p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or adult led? • Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 	
<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? • Was it a prayerful experience? 	
<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How creative was the Act of Worship? • Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 	
<p>Prayer Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
<p>ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
<p>Agreed areas for development</p>	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher
Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...