



St Cecilia's Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

St Cecilia's Catholic Infant School strives to be a family community inspired by the teachings of Christ in which each individual is valued, nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian 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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of the school

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes account of 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. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of *God* and to give honour, praise and thanks to him
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To develop common ethos and values
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To enrich religious experience and grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- To develop skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, empathy and meditation
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

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
- Give children positive liturgical experience appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

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

Collective Worship includes:

- Class prayer at the beginning of each day.
- Prayer before lunch time
- Prayer at the end of each day sometimes as a class and sometimes as larger groups

Collective Acts of Worship at St Cecilia's follow a variety of formats and are held at different times of the day Formats include:

- Individual class collective worship - Tuesday and Thursday
- Foundation Stage / Year group Assembly – Wednesday
- Reception classes and Key Stage One - Monday and Friday
- Class assemblies for parents - termly basis
- Whole school liturgical celebrations - All staff
- Celebrating prayer through singing with Mrs van de Waal

Foundation/Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- Short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- A range of types of prayers
- A range of styles of celebration
- Opportunities for children to take part in worship
- Opportunities for reflection and stillness

Elements of Collective Worship

- Music
- Words
- Silence
- Suitable environment
- Gesture
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Symbolic action
- Ministry
- Drama

Not every celebration will involve all of these elements. Some parts will be done by all, others by individuals.

Collective worship is planned

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, significant dates and curriculum.
- 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 begin to develop children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Co-ordinator, and is evaluated and reviewed by the governors and whole staff every two years.

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You'

