

Collective Worship Policy St. Bede's RC Primary School



Agreed by the Governing Body on	May 2020
Review Date	April 2022
Person Responsible	RE Subject Leader

Mission Statement

‘To lead children to that place within them only God can fill.’

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 head teacher.

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. Bede’s School

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St. Bede’s 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.’

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Principles

All acts of worship in St. Bede's 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
- 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 or Remembrance Day.

Children will be taught to plan liturgies that include the four distinct elements of Collective Worship- Gathering, Word, Response, Going Forth.

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.

Staff begin every term with an appropriate liturgy and begin every staff meeting with a prayer. There are also times across the school year where staff will have the opportunity to develop their Spirituality through professional development or retreats.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Act Of Worship	Day	Time
Whole School (Led by HT)	Monday	10.15-10-45am
Class led liturgy for whole school	Thursday	9:10-9:20am
In class acts of Worship	Any day	Decided by teacher.
Individual class acts of Worship (planned/delivered by children)	End of every topic/theme	15 minutes
Class Meditation	Daily	2.15pm (time dependent upon age of children)

Leading Collective Worship

As faith leader of the school, the Head Teacher will plan and lead Collective Worship weekly.

Every Monday morning whole school Collective Worship takes place.

The class teachers will help children to lead class Collective Worship in their individual classes in an age appropriate manner.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in the Collective Worship File, which is updated by the Co-ordinator.

Each member of staff provides the coordinator with a copy of any act of worship they help children plan or deliver.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The planning and delivery of Collective Worship is monitored by the RE Coordinator with observations/scrutiny of planning taking place annually. Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, See Appendix 1

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

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Resources

Each class has their own set of resources (including a range of coloured cloths, candles, artefacts, bibles) to support the delivery of Collective worship. There is also a central set of resources used for whole school Liturgies and for the Sacred Space in the corridor.

Other resources, such as hymn books or Mass cards, are stored in the staffroom.

Resources cards, to help children in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship, have recently been organised and distributed to each class.

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

RE Coordinator attended a day of Christian Mindfulness (March 2020)

Other opportunities

Whole school liturgies are held in church to celebrate events such as St. Bede's Day or Y6 Leavers' reflection.

Eucharist

We plan and take part in 2-3 'Family Masses' per term to which parents and the parish are invited. The theme of the Masses reflect events in the Liturgical year or topics linked to the RE programme.

Each class attends parish Mass once per half term.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs Spratt is our Collective Worship /RE Coordinator (See attached Appendix 1 – Role of Collective Worship Coordinator)

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.

Policy updated April 2020

The next review will take place April 2022

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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 inservice training and ongoing 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

[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]

Focus	Comments
Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration) <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? 	
Structure (If Liturgy) <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? 	
Leadership <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? 	
Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? · Was it a prayerful experience? 	
Creativity <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? 	
Prayer Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
Agreed areas for development	

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:

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

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...