



St Illtyd's Catholic High School

Collective Worship Policy

2017

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

Together in Christ, we make a difference

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in our 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.

As part of the outward signs of our Catholic school's ethos, regular liturgical celebrations and daily prayers "...in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church" are at the very heart of our school life.

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.

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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

In our school 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; and
- those from other faith backgrounds.

It is a spiritual activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to our Catholic ethos and commitment to the evangelising mission of the Church.

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;
- offer pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Planning

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship;
- in consultation with appropriate groups (e.g. Liturgy Group/Chaplaincy Team) and with reference to school aims and policies;
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community; and
- to develop in pupils the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Collective Worship is planned to take place during the period set aside as form time in the day. This period of time is referred to as Registration and Assembly. Every pupil will have a period of Collective Worship everyday as follows:

- on each day of the week, Monday to Friday in the school hall as Year Group assemblies;
- on Wednesday as Year Group Mass; and
- in Form groups during Registration time.

Content

Our acts of collective worship will involve some or all of the following features:

1. Introduction
2. Sign of the Cross
3. Quote from Scripture
4. Hymn
5. Scripture Reading
6. Response to scripture reading/quote
7. Reflection
8. Gospel Values and Mission
9. Prayer
10. Blessing
11. Recessional Hymn/Music

Delivery

All acts of collective worship will involve a mix of people from the involved group, including teachers and staff. No act of worship can be led by one person alone.

The Mass

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion/feast in the Church's Year where appropriate.

This 'encounter with Christ' will involve all pupils at least once a term through Friday Year group masses and will either be celebrated as a complete Year group in the Hall or as a split Year Group in the Chapel. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, with opportunities for pupils to participate maximised.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Voluntary acts of worship – either in the form of Mass or Liturgy of the Word will be offered on Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Church's Liturgical cycle e.g. Ash Wednesday, Feast of Ss Peter and Paul etc.

Opportunities for spiritual retreats are provided at least once a year for both staff and pupils.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision for collective worship will be 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.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator for collective worship is the Assistant Headteacher for RE, Catholic Ethos and Spirituality.

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 Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.