

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Learn to Love; Learn to Believe; Learn to Achieve.

*In our school Christ is at the centre and children
are at the heart of all that we do:*

*We inspire everyone to succeed to reach their potential
in a safe inclusive happy environment;*

*We develop resilient hard working independent individuals
who are confident to take risks.*

Collective Worship Policy

Date: 10 March 2023

Review Date: 9 March 2024

Signed by Chair of Governors: Mrs S Buller

The place and nature of Collective Worship in our school

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.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims –

We believe the aims of Collective Worship give students and staff the opportunity to...

- support, enrich and deepen their relationship with God.
- engage students in the act of exploring their faith.
- widen their understanding of their place in our world and to strengthen their sense of belonging to it.
- develop knowledge of traditional Catholic Christian prayer.
- develop their knowledge of liturgy and the place of scripture in it.
- allow students the opportunity to plan and lead liturgical prayer

Legal –

2.1 In line with the Education Reform Act (1988), collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' At Saint Mary's, all Liturgical Prayer is held in a Catholic context and focuses on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church.

2.2 We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We fulfil this requirement following our Liturgical Prayer rota. Each day students and staff take part in 'Come and Worship' Liturgical Prayer

2.3 Daily acts of worship are not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. Liturgical prayer falls outside of the 10% curriculum time allocated to RE as outlined by the Diocese.

Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole School 'Come and Worship' led the Executive Headteacher or Head of School, aided by pupils. This worship focuses on the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday and message linked to an event, a topic or weekend scripture readings. Creative ways are used to explore the messages told in the story.

Tuesday – 'Come and Worship' in class. Teachers use resources, such as Mark 10 Mission liturgies and 'Statements to Live By' to support in delivering worship to the pupils. Thoughts and reflections from these worships are displayed in class Collective Worship books.

Wednesday – Whole school ‘Come and Praise’. This worship is the opportunity for pupils to praise and worship God through hymns and liturgical music. Come and Praise is led by our Chaplaincy lead and a different team each week. It is ensured that hymns and liturgical music focussed. ‘The Wednesday Word’ prayer leaflet is distributed to pupils at the end of this worship.

Thursday – Key Stage ‘Come and Worship’ planned and led by the pupils and Liturgical Prayer teams from different classes. Pupils use school based resources, and Let Us Pray 2gether to support them in planning and leading these worships.

Friday- Whole school ‘Come and Celebrate’. This is led by a different teacher each week, and focuses upon celebrating the pupils’ achievements inside and outside of school. Parents and carers are also invited to attend this worship.

Planning

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the seasons of the church, ‘Come and See’, significant (and liturgical) dates and the curriculum. Acts of Worship will be rooted in scripture; it will feature prominently, and connect directly with the theme. It will relate to the school community in the light of the school’s aims and mission. There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community for example, charitable events, worldwide issues/events etc. We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship. Children and adults will have numerous opportunities to use the planning format before delivering their Act of Worship. Plans for Collective Worship created by the children are to be placed in their own Collective Worship book.

Delivery

An Act of Worship will always begin and end with the Sign of the Cross to remind students and staff that Christ is at the centre of our faith community and that we are in the presence of God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In all Acts of Worship, it is important that an appropriate atmosphere representative of the liturgical season is established. Acts of Worship will be delivered with reverence and respect for the spiritual and liturgical content and, if appropriate, for the sacred spaces in which they are celebrated. An altar or prayer table will be used as a focal point during worships.

Evaluation and Development

Where possible, Acts of Worship will be evaluated, either informally through discussion and comment or using a liturgy evaluation sheet. These will be collated regularly in the School Evidence Folder. Once a year the school’s provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school. The style and nature of our Acts of Worship will continually be open to the needs of the community and be open to incorporating new ideas and experiences,

whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos. We also regularly ask our parents and carers for feedback to gather a sense of what impact these different styles of worship have on them.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are available in the Prayer room. There is also a cupboard in the Prayer room where Mass resources are kept. Members from our Chaplaincy team are involved in monitoring and managing the resources and we aim to update them as regularly as possible. Resources in the prayer room and the hall worship table include: books, prayers, candles, cloths, crosses, praying hands, pebbles etc. The school uses the 'Let us Pray 2gether' resources, alongside worship planning resources created by the school.

Sacramental provision

At Saint Mary's we endeavour to give our students and staff the opportunity to take part in the sacraments as often as possible.

As the source and summit of our faith, at Saint Mary's we aim to give all students the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least **once** a term.

Likewise we value the Sacrament of Reconciliation as central to the faith of Saint Mary's. We aim to give students the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation **twice** a year, especially during Lent and Advent

Parental involvement

The parents and carers of students at Saint Mary's are invited to school Mass and Friday Come and Worship celebrations.