

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Part of the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust



Collective Worship Policy

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WE LIVE OUR LIVES LIKE JESUS

This means we will:

- ✓ *Support everyone on their journey of faith as they deepen their personal relationship with Christ and by recognising the love of God in their lives.*
- ✓ *Promote everyone's well-being and nurture children to be confident, resilient and articulate with a self-belief that they can make a difference to their local community and wider world.*
- ✓ *Encourage everyone to achieve their personal best, enjoy school and celebrate all achievements.*
- ✓ *Celebrate our school's unique cultural diversity.*
- ✓ *Reach out to Parents, the Parish and the wider community*

Jesus is at the heart of all that we are and do together at Corpus Christi

| Responsibility | Date |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Approved by Trust | |
| Scrutinised and Inspected by Governors | 10 th February 2022 |
| Member of Staff Responsible | Head teacher |
| Statutory/Non- Statutory | Statutory |
| Date Last Reviewed | 10 th February 2022 |
| Date of Next Review | February 2023 |

This policy is designed to reflect and support the school's Mission Statement:

'We live our lives like Jesus.'

1. Introduction to Collective Worship in our Catholic School

The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers are an integral part of school life at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School. It is through acts of shared worship, prayer and liturgy, that the Catholic identity of our school is shaped and sustained and our sense of community reinforced and celebrated.

Collective worship in a Catholic school is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective worship should strengthen this Eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective worship is this community's response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that collective worship in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community
- To experience a sense of belonging and participate with others in prayer and worship
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To develop the necessary skills of:
 - reverence
 - contemplation
 - reflection
 - interpretation
 - empathy
 - meditation

which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys
- To develop the skills of prayer
- To take time out "to wonder at" and "to come to terms with"

3. Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. Collective Worship at Corpus Christi takes place daily as set out below:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| Whole School Worship reflecting on Sunday's Gospel (Currently as Key Stages due to Covid) | Class Worship | Class Worship EY and KS1 Phase Liturgy | Class Worship | Good Shepherd Celebration Assembly – revisiting the Gospel and celebrating children who |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|
| | | | | have demonstrated Gospel Values |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|

We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either 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 considered as part of the Religious Education (R.E) lesson and is in addition to the 10% allocated time dedicated to the teaching of R.E.

In this voluntary aided Catholic school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher.

4. Definitions

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means ‘work of the people’ and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Additional liturgies such as advent and lent penitential services are planned according to the liturgical year. Every class also hold a liturgy for parents.

Prayer

One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God.” These words of St John Damascene, now found in the catechism, illustrate why at Corpus Christi we begin and end each session with a prayer. Prayer is encouraged in different forms including: individual, group, school and community. It may be within formal or informal surroundings, spoken or quiet reflection.

Collective Worship

Collective worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship with Godself, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

5. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that collective worship takes into account the religious, spiritual 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 inclusive activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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

6. Implementation

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all

- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible)
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery
- Planned and timetabled for classes, key stages and whole school

Collective worship in Corpus Christi will follow this structure:

Gathering - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

Word - a reading from the Bible (usually linked to the previous Sunday Gospel or Reading of the day)

Responding to God's word- Children are given time to respond to the Word in a secure and trusting environment. They are encouraged to participate through silence and reflection using their heart, mind and senses

Action - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

Mission/Going Forth - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

7. Celebration of the Eucharist

There are planned opportunities for the whole school community to celebrate Mass together.

With the parish priest presiding in Corpus Christi Church, the school community celebrate the following masses throughout the year:

- First school mass of the year
- Harvest Mass
- Mass of All Saints
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Mass of the Risen Christ
- Mass to celebrate Mary (month of May)
- Corpus Christi
- The Feast of St Peter and St Paul
- Year group Masses

If Holy Days of Obligation have been moved to a Sunday the school will continue to celebrate them on the actual day in order that all of the school community can participate in them and understand their importance in the Catholic faith tradition.

In Corpus Christi Catholic School, the parish priest leads:

- Advent Penitential
- Lenten Penitential
- School leavers' Mass
- Blessing of Reception children and families
- Blessing of all children and their classrooms
- Inset

The parish priest is invited to attend;

- Holy Week Liturgies
- Class Liturgies

A class will join the Parish Mass during the week on a rotation,

Pupils in Yr5/6 will have the opportunity to experience Eucharistic Adoration on a fortnightly basis. Each class will spend 15 mins before the Lord in silent/quiet adoration. Pupils will be supported to understand the purpose of Eucharistic Adoration and given a focus for each session.

8. Monitoring and Review

The following will be monitored:

- Time set aside for collective worship
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer
- Records of collective worship including timetables, themes and liturgies

9. Right of Withdrawal:

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. However, we would expect parents who have chosen a Catholic education for their child to be fully supportive of the values and practices that are at the heart of our community.

10. The Role of the RE Leader:

The RE Leader will be responsible for:-

- Formulating a written policy
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring areas for development are identified in the School Improvement Plan
- Ensuring that collective worship takes account of the religious, educational and social needs of all who share in it
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is rooted in the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church
- Organising themes for worship linked to God Matters and the liturgical year
- Assisting the governors and the Headteacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship

11. Role of the Chaplain

The School Chaplain will be responsible for-

- Planning and leading worship and liturgies
- Liaise with Head teacher and Parish Priest to plan the year's liturgical plan
- Supporting new staff to confidently lead worship and liturgies
- Maintain high quality displays in shared areas
- Support Catholic Social Teaching by leading a Corpus Christi University group.

12. Resources

Resources for collective worship are stored in the PPA room and available to all staff. These include a variety of Bibles, prayer books, artefacts, ideas for worship and services. The head teacher, RE Leader and Chaplain are available to offer support with planning and leading worship.

In each classroom there should be:

- A prayer focus reflecting the liturgical season
- Bible, open at relevant scripture linked to liturgical season or God Matters unit
- Crucifix
- Appropriate artefact reflecting the liturgical season
- Opportunity for pupils to record their own prayers.

13. Communication

This policy will be shared with and communicated to:

- All members of the school and parish community
- Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship

14. Policy Monitoring and Review

Governors are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to collective worship, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998.

In our school, it is the overall responsibility of governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure:

- acts of worship are in accordance with the school's trust deed and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
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- that Governors review reports on the prayer life of the school.
- Monitoring, evaluation and review of Collective Worship is an integral part of the self review process and is shared with the whole school community. Strengths and areas for development are highlighted through this process and recommendations for future action will be identified in the School Improvement Plan.