

**Catholic Academy Trust in East Berkshire
St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

*Learning and loving on our journey with
Jesus.*



To the greater glory of God

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

“To the greater glory of God”

This policy supports the distinctive nature of our school. The mission of St Mary's School is to educate our children for life as Christians in the community. Jesus and His teachings are central to all we do.

Introduction to Collective Worship in our Catholic School

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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement (Education Act of 1993) that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.¹ (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 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 RE lesson (for time purposes).

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises, the parish church of St Joseph's and retreat locations.

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, 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 our School

We endorse the belief that 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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.

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 are 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.

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 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.

Implementation

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants (Diocesan guidelines to be used as a reference);
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery.
- Include opportunities for reflection on scripture.

Worship at St Mary's is delivered in the following pattern as a rule:

Day	Type	Length mins	Venue	leader
Monday	Whole school	15 out of 30	Hall	Head Teacher
Tuesday	Class worship	15	Class	Class Teacher
Wednesday	Key stage/class	20	Hall/Class	Class Teacher
Thursday	Whole school	15 out of 30	Hall	Deputy Head Teacher/staff
Friday	Class	15	Class	Class Teacher

Celebration of the Eucharist

The celebration of Mass is central to the mission of St Mary's and worshipping as a school community. Mass is celebrated regularly throughout the year in school on Feast days and at the beginning and end of each term.

Individual Key stage 2 groups also attend Mass at the parish church.

The whole school celebrates with the parish community each year in October at the parish church.

Policy Monitoring and Review

In this Catholic 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.

Monitoring will include:

- Observation of Collective Worship
- Review of the prayer focus in each classroom
- Quality of resources
- Staff development
- Records of themes and teachings

The prayer life of the school is reported to governors in the Teaching and Learning Committee on a termly basis.

This policy is monitored by the collective worship co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed every three years in consultation with the Headteacher and RE Governor.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or when necessary

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on

Date.....

Signed.....

This policy will be reviewed in spring 2020