



Collective worship Policy  
For St Edward's Catholic Primary and  
Nursery School

# Policy for Collective Worship

## Mission Statement

*We carry the light of Christ as we love, live, learn and look after each other.*

The mission of our school is to be like disciples, following Jesus' teachings in everything we do.

## 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, 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.

## Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.

## The place of Collective worship in the life of our school

As a Catholic School we base our worship, ethos and curriculum around the teachings of Christ. Our Christian identity is a focal point and it is at the heart of everything that we do. We aim to make the Liturgical life of the school both creative and diverse to ensure that we stimulate and challenge the children in a spiritual way. The policy is to support the Liturgical life of the school by providing guidelines for various acts of worship from the individual, to class prayer times, to Masses with the Parish and the wider community. We also recognise the rich multicultural society within which we live. We reflect other cultures in our worship and teachings where appropriate. We compare faiths to enable us to deepen our understanding of our own faith.

## 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.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

When planning any services, we try and use the Gather Listen Respond and Go model. This model reflects the four parts of Mass and it is a good basis on which to plan Worship. The table later in the policy gives some suggestions on how to plan Worship based on this model. (Appendix 1)

- When planning Worship, it should reflect the theme, or liturgical season of the church where appropriate. (For example don't sing Alleluia during a Lent worship, or have a lively upbeat service for a Reconciliation service that has a reflective undertone.) Allow the children to feel differences in the mood of the Liturgical calendar and to experience different collective Worships to further their spiritual self.
- As the children grow in age and confidence, they can take a more active part in the planning of Liturgy.

**Children from Foundation**, can prepare the focus- e.g. selecting the right liturgical colour of cloth, placing a candle and a Bible in the centre, with the adult placing any additional props. Using a piece of material made by the children using a hand print or foot print.

**Children in Key Stage 1** can write simple prayers that can be used, they can help to choose the songs sung with guidance so they fit in the theme of the Worship. Children can choose the artefacts needed and the correct liturgical cloths as a teaching point or reinforcement.

**Children in Key Stage 2** can plan simple acts of Worship, reflecting on the four aspects Gather Listen Respond and Go., The children can think about the type of response that would be the most appropriate e.g John the Baptist, using holy water and inviting each child to bless themselves in response to a meditation read. They can lead through playing musical instruments and using recorded music through their worship

**The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship** Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons and we use the Gather Listen Respond and Go model. This model reflects the four parts of Mass and it is a good basis on which to plan Worship.

**Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship**

- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

### **Recording Collective Worship:**

Collective worship is recorded on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources (see appendix 2)

Collective worship is also recorded through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

**Monitoring and Evaluation** At least once a year the school's provision of 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. (see appendix 3)

**Resources** Central resources for use by staff are stored in the central resource area of the school. These include books, posters, artefacts etc.

### **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 two years. The *Foundation Governors* in particular will play a most important role.

Agreed and reviewed by: *Full Governing Body*

Date agreed: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Date for next review: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020



# Liturgy Planner

## Appendix one

<p><b>Date:</b></p> <p><i>When and at what time is the prayer service?</i></p>	
<p><b>Liturgical Season/Feast</b></p> <p><i>Which Season of the Church's year is it taking place in? Is there a special feast or memorial? Is there a particular theme?</i></p>	
<p><b>Key Stage/Year Groups</b></p> <p><i>Who will be present? Which children and which adults?</i></p>	
<p><b>Place</b></p> <p><i>Where is the Prayer Service taking place?</i></p>	

<p><b>Preparation &amp; Organisation</b></p> <p><i>Planning in advance and getting the Holy space ready for prayer</i></p>			<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><i>What needs to be prepared? Which ministries are needed? Who will be doing what?</i></p>
<p><b>Gather</b></p> <p><i>Bringing everyone into the Holy space</i></p>			
<p><b>Listen to the Word of God</b></p> <p><i>How will God's Word be proclaimed?</i></p>			

<p><b>Respond</b></p> <p><i>How will we respond? What sort of prayer, action or song will we use?</i></p>		
<p><b>Go Forth</b></p> <p><i>What message can we give to people to think about and to act upon for the rest of the day?</i></p>		



Date: <i>When and at what time is the prayer service?</i>	<b>01/07/19</b>
Liturgical Season/Feast <i>Which Season of the Church's year is it taking place in? Is there a special feast or memorial? Is there a particular theme?</i>	<b>Particular theme is: Vocation</b>
Key Stage/Year Groups <i>Who will be present? Which children and which adults?</i>	<b>Year Three-30 children</b> <b>Teaching Assistants-Miss O'Reilly and Miss Jeyes</b>
Place <i>Where is the Prayer Service taking place?</i>	<b>In Year Three's Classroom</b>

<b>Preparation &amp; Organisation</b>  <i>Planning in advance and getting the Holy space ready for prayer</i>	<b>Prepare the music for the Collective worship session: Gather, Gather, Follow me</b>  <b>Prepare prayer focal resources: green cloth, bible, candle, crucifix</b>  <b>Prepare a power-point for the children to follow</b>  <b>Give the children who are reading, a script to follow.</b>	<b>Resources</b>  <i>What needs to be prepared? Which ministries are needed? Who will be doing what?</i>
<b>Gather</b>  <i>Bringing everyone into the Holy space</i>	<b>Begin service by singing 'Gather, Gather'</b>  <b>Children will enter the circle with their hands joined, singing along to the hymn. After the hymn, we will do the sign of the cross.</b>  <b>Children will bring a Bible, candle and crucifix to our prayer focal point.</b>  <b>A group of children will introduce the collective worship session.</b>  <b>I will explain that today's session is about vocation. We will watch a short video about vocation and will discuss what we think it is.</b>	<b>Gather Gather CD</b>  <b>Power-point</b>  <b>Scripts for readers</b>  <b>Bible, green cloth, candle and crucifix for prayer focus.</b>
<b>Listen to the Word of God</b>  <i>How will God's Word be proclaimed?</i>	<b>I will read a reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke: Jesus calls Simon and James and John.</b>  <b>We will have a discussion based upon this Gospel; discussing how Jesus has a calling for each and every one of us.</b>	<b>Reading from Luke's Gospel.</b>



<p><b>Respond</b></p> <p><i>How will we respond? What sort of prayer, action or song will we use?</i></p>	<p><b>The children will lead some bidding prayers, praying for the Church, vocations, Priestly vocations and for those who are searching for a meaning and purpose to their lives.</b></p> <p><b>The children will then complete an activity based upon what they believe their calling/vocation to be.</b></p> <p><b>The children will then place their work into the middle of our prayer circle.</b></p>	<p><b>Bidding prayers for the children.</b></p> <p><b>Crucifix template for children to record their vocations on.</b></p>
<p><b>Go Forth</b></p> <p><i>What message can we give to people to think about and to act upon for the rest of the day?</i></p>	<p><b>Have a final discussion about what vocation means to us.</b></p> <p><b>Finish by singing 'Follow me' reminding us that Jesus has a calling for us and that we must try our best to follow in his footsteps.</b></p>	<p><b>Follow Me song</b></p>



### Appendix three -Collective Worship Observation Form

Date:	Start Time: Finish Time:	Observer:	Theme:
Location: Hall	Class:		Prepared by:
	Key Stage	Whole School	
<b>Preparation</b>			
Recorded evidence of planning			
Evidence of pupil involvement in elements of planning			
Prominent focal point for prayer			
Focal point relates to the Liturgical Season/theme			
Environment creates a space conducive to prayer			
<b>Gather</b>			
Pupils enter in a reverent manner			
Prompt start to active Collective Worship			
Appropriate words, rituals and gestures are used			
<b>Listen and Respond</b>			
Prominence given to the Word			
Resources are age appropriate			
Delivery engages and inspires pupils			
Media, props and artefacts are used appropriately and effectively			
Pupils respond in a variety of ways			
Opportunities for SMVSC			
Worship is the main focus			

Pupils were able to practice, develop and learn new forms of prayer	
Staff are engaged and act as role models	
Pupils lead some elements	
<b>Go Forth</b>	
Pupils know and understand the message/lesson	
Pupils leave in an appropriate manner	
WWW:	EBI: