



St Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Our Vision

We wish every child to discover their own sense of spirituality and be equipped and able to express it personally and as a part of our faith community.

Mission Statement:

Jesus Christ is very important in our school. He is at the heart of everything we do. Our school is part of the mission of the church- making Christ known and loved. We work together to live out our Mission Statement.

Our Mission Statement- Holding God's Hand We Nurture Our Hearts. Minds and Spirits.

St Teresa Of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust Mission Statement - Make Christ Known; Making Lives Better.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to the invitation to enter into a relationship with God, 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. 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 need to be 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. It 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.

The Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff. Through Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and develop the following: -

- To contemplate the mystery of God;
- To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;
- To develop the necessary skills of: reflection, reverence, contemplation, interpretation, empathy and 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 praying in all its differing forms.

Organisation of Worship

Monday – Whole School Collective Worship in the School Hall introducing the ‘Virtue To Live By’ for the week

Tuesday – KS1 and KS2 Sung Worship and message of the week assembly- this is linked to key events over the year for example- Autism Awareness Day or Diwali

Wednesday- Phase worship- linked to the Virtue To Live By

Thursday – Pupil led and planned worship in each class across school

Friday – Celebration Worship- whole school celebration of the successes of the week and our God given talents. A Mission Disciple is awarded from each class based on ‘The Virtue To Live By’.

Mass

As a School Family in our Parish Church of St. Michael’s we celebrate mass. Each week a class attend Wednesday Parish Mass. At key times of the year the whole school attend Mass at Church (this is at least once a half term).

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Each week a ‘The Virtue To Live By’. by is introduced to the whole school, evidence of this can be found around school including in all classrooms and offices.

Class based collective worship is planned for and led by the children (Nursery to Y6), all children in the school get an opportunity to lead and plan. The planning format includes 4 parts: Gathering, Word of God, Response, and Going Forth/Mission.

Children plan Collective Worship on a Wednesday in preparation for leading it on a Thursday.

The children choose the way in which we gather, what scripture we share, how we respond to what we have heard (including reading/writing prayers, singing, creative activities, reflections or drama) and how we can go out into the world and live God's message.

Example of Collective Worship themes- Friendship/ Forgiveness/ Compassion/Trust Justice/ Thankfulness/ Peace/ Hope/ Lent/ Advent/ Interfaith e.g. Passover, Eid

Monitoring and Evaluation

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 in line with the review of the curriculum and RE. The RE Subject Lead and Collective Worship Lead regularly monitor Collective Worship across the school. Staff are encouraged to watch Collective Worship in other classes.

Prayer

A prayer begins each session of the day, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of each day. Children are actively involved in Prayer and Worship and lead prayers in class and lead Class Collective Worship.

All Governor and Staff meetings begin with prayer.

Sacramental Programme

Meetings and celebration Masses take place during the school year for Year 3 children. School work closely with the Parish to support the children on their journey and the Parish Priest comes into school regularly to work alongside the Year 3 pupils.

Visiting Church

The whole school are given the opportunity throughout the year to visit church as part of our Lent and Advent Prayer stations. These visits given the children an opportunity to reflect and respond to key events in the Liturgical Calendar.

Resources

All teaching staff have access to Come and See resources, Ten: Ten resources and The Virtues to Live By documents. Each class has its own Bible and books appropriate to the age of the children being taught. In addition, there is a wide variety of story books and resource books to use to support the planning and delivery of collective worship. Each class has their own 'Collective Worship' box with resources and planning sheets which enable the children to plan independently. We also have resources that can be used for focus tables and as a means for discussion, e.g. stones, candles, crosses, prayer books.

The Chapel is a multifunctional room. It has a permanent religious display that the Mini Vinnies organise and there is also a smaller display which reflects the Liturgical Calendar. The Prayer room is used for Mini Vinnie meetings and small group worship and quiet prayer and reflection for the pupils and staff. It is used for weekly lunchtime prayer sessions.

Prayer table/Altar

A devoted area is set-aside at the front of each classroom, at the front of school near to the office, in the hall and in both the KS1 and KS2 areas to reflect the liturgical calendar e.g. October – Holy Rosary. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. During whole school or key stage collective worship, a special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle, liturgical cloth may be used as a centring object during prayer. Pupils participate in a 'Bible Procession' during Monday's Worship which helps to dress the altar.

We plan throughout the year opportunities to share our Collective Worship sessions with visitors (e.g. Bishop John Arnold), families and children from other local schools.