



*United Through Jesus in Faith, Love and Learning*

## **POLICY – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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Office use only:

Our policy for Collective Worship at St Paul's supports our vision and Mission statements by helping our community to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him.

Recognising Christ in Everyone We are a community which lives by the Gospel Values of truth, love respect, forgiveness and justice. We seek to provide a stimulating learning environment which celebrates the achievements of every individual and enables them to reach their full spiritual, academic, social, creative and physical potential.

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 God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him, which is 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 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, 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 subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

### **Definition of Terms**

Prayer: Traditionally described as 'lifting up our hearts and minds to God'. Communal prayer is an essential part of the life of our school for example at the start and end of the school day and the beginning of meetings of staff and governors. There are also opportunities for personal spontaneous times of prayer.

St Paul's whole school community (all staff, governors, parents and volunteers working in the school) are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children. At St Paul's we recognize our duties under the Equality Act 2010. Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Celebration of the Word: Longer and more formal in structure, they will be based on Scripture but may be created for the school rather than taken from the liturgical books of the Church.

Liturgy: Following the Missal and Lectionary, such as Masses and services of Reconciliation. These occasions follow the set structure, gestures and symbols of our faith.

### The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To enable the spiritual development of each child.
- To help children become familiar with the traditional forms of worship in the Catholic Church and to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To provide opportunities to develop a relationship with God.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To facilitate a growth in knowledge of the person and teachings of Jesus.

We mark the Major Feasts by attending Mass in our Parish Church or in school. Each year parents are invited to attend Masses and Liturgies in school. We have whole school services of Reconciliation during Lent and Advent.

### Policy into Practice:

#### Prayer

Children participate in or lead formal prayers at the start and end of the school day and before lunch in classes. The Angelus is said by the whole school.

#### Celebration of the Word

- On Mondays whole school Celebration of the Word takes place and focuses on the Sunday Gospel reading.
- On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays there is Celebration of the Word in classes. These are sometimes led by the children.
- On one day during the week, each Key Stage or phase has Celebration of the Word; class teachers take it in turn to prepare this weekly worship.

#### Liturgy

A weekday Mass at St Joseph's church is attended by one class each week. We have whole school Masses at the start of each term, to celebrate Holy Days and events special to our school eg The Conversion of St Paul and the feast day of SS Peter and Paul.

## The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates or the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all 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.

## 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 or only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds. It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Equal Opportunities Parents have the right to withdraw children from daily Collective Worship, but as a Catholic School, it is hoped that our acts of Worship are seen and accepted as an intrinsic part of school life.

- Recording Collective Worship is recorded:
- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation It is the overall responsibilities of governors, in consultation with the Head teacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for collective worship are being delivered.

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.

Associated Policies RHE Policy, R E Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy.