

# Policy Statement for Collective Worship



## MISSION STATEMENT

*Together with Jesus we Love,  
Learn and Believe*

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Chair of Governors</b>          | Mrs C Hamilton                    |
| <b>Headteacher</b>                 | Miss S Wrigley                    |
| <b>Date adopted:</b> December 2021 | <b>Review Date:</b> December 2023 |

Collective Worship at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It is rooted in the example and teachings of Jesus Christ whilst considering the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. We believe that Collective Worship takes account of 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 is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We believe that Christian worship in 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 responses, in word and actions, to God's invitation to enter in to a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

All children are involved and given an opportunity to respond in an act of daily worship. This gives all involved, time to contemplate the mystery of God, the wonder of life and to draw us closer to God. On these occasions' children are given the opportunities to participate, to reflect and to respond.

### **Aims**

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide an opportunity for all children and staff:

- To promote and develop an appreciation of more active participation in prayer, liturgy and worship. relevant to the age and experience of each child.
- To consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To be respectful and relevant towards beliefs of others.
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer.
- To develop links with the parish community.
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging with a common ethos and shared values.
- To enrich the religious experience of all members of the school community.
- To reinforce home/school/parish links.
- To foster a sense of wonder and joy in creation and to promote an understanding of responsibility for their world.
- To affirm and develop individual dignity.
- To give children the opportunity to build a personal relationship with God
- Respond to and celebrate life by taking time out to 'wonder at', mark as special.
- Build a firm foundation for liturgy.

### **Objectives For Collective Worship:**

- To give glory and honour to God.
- To provide a prayer focus for each classroom.
- To provide opportunities for reflection and silent prayer.
- To give children positive liturgical experience appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- To gather together to celebrate the special times in the school calendar and liturgical year.

### Who?

- The Headteacher and R.E. lead are responsible for ensuring that the school has a current Collective Worship policy
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day
- Class teachers are responsible for planning and enabling Collective Worship to take place daily.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in Collective Worship and be involved in an age appropriate way
- Parents will be invited into school regularly to participate in Collective Worship.
- Governors will meet with the RE lead and be kept informed of any updates and be invited to participate in Collective Worship.

### Where?

Collective worship can take place:

- Within the classroom
- In the school hall
- In the open/outdoor classroom/field

*"As a rule, all acts of Collective Worship should take place on the school premises. However, the governing bodies of grant maintained, aided and special agreement schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions." (Education Reform Act 1988)*

### When?

**It is a legal requirement that every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day.**

To ensure that Collective Worship is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants it needs to occur at the most appropriate time for the class/ key stage / school. Class teachers are encouraged to look at their weekly timetable and place Collective Worship at a time which enables the children to have a quality experience.

### How?

It can be led by:

- Headteacher / Deputy head /RE Coordinator / Parish Priest
- Class teacher/Phase Leader
- Children
- Visitors to the school

**In order to provide children with quality experiences of Collective Worship, teachers at St Aloysius will:**

- Ensure that the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and abilities of learners (time: approximately one minute for each year of a child's life)
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit (use of music / lighting)
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols etc.
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

### **Teachers will use a variety of building blocks**

- Readings: Scripture / poetry / story
- Drama / dance / song / role play
- Artefacts / posters / natural materials
- Time for reflection / silence
- Prayer: informal / formal (Psalms / children's own prayers etc.)
- Responses (e.g. saying / singing / signing)

### **Formats include:**

- Daily gathering of each class, at some time during the day
- Whole school liturgical celebrations
- Assemblies/Collective Worships with parents
- Short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- A range of styles of celebration
- Opportunities for reflection and stillness

### **Planning will be done with reference to:**

- Come and See topics, the Church's seasons, significant dates
- The whole curriculum
- Local, national, world events

### **What to include on planning sheet for Collective Worship.**

#### **When Teachers plan Collective Worship: they will use the format recommended by the CED-gather, listen, respond and go forth**

Preparation: When, where, who, what? What resources will I need? Create focus. Send invitations

Gathering: How will we begin / enter – to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Use a 'gathering chant' Come in procession.

Listen: Reading from scriptures, psalms, readings etc. Use power point. Pause at times for quiet contemplation. Dramatise the readings.

Respond: Quiet reflection, formal / informal prayer / respond to bidding prayers. Place stone at foot of cross etc.

Go Forth: What will I do to help the children take the message away with them – prayer card, picture, common prayer, make a promise

#### **When children plan Collective Worship:**

##### **Gather**

- What music might you play?
- How will the children gather?
- Will you light the candle(s)?
- Can you find an appropriate picture / poster / artefact? – explain it.

### **Listen**

- Who will read?
- What will you read?  
(Scripture / Prayer / Psalm / Story / Hymn)
- Will you act out the reading? Or use a Power Point presentation?

### **Respond**

- How will you help your friends to reflect on what they have read/heard?
- Will you say prayers that need a response?
- Who will lead the prayers?

### **Go Forth**

- What do you want your friends to take away from this Act of Worship? How will you help them to remember its message?

Collective Worship will be recorded through:

- Planning sheets
- Collections of learner's contributions/prayers, reflections
- Photographs / display
- Twitter
- Weekly Newsletter

## **Collective Acts of Worship at St Aloysius's follow a variety of formats and are held at different times of the day. Formats include:**

- Daily gathering of each class, at some time during the day
- Whole school liturgical celebrations
- Assemblies/Collective Worships with parents
- Short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- A range of styles of celebration
- Opportunities for reflection and stillness

### **Elements of Collective Worship**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| *Music                | *Prayer          |
| *Words                | *Scripture       |
| *Silence              | *Symbolic Action |
| *Suitable Environment | *Ministry        |
| *Gesture              | * Drama          |

**Not all every celebration will involve all of these elements.**

### **Planning of Collective Worship:**

- Follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, significant dates, curriculum, current events and themes in Collective Worship Planner.
- Staff use the school's planning template (See Appendix 1)
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- Children will also prepare, organise and lead worship in an age appropriate way.
- Collective worship will be recorded through planning sheets (see appendix 1), collections of learner's contributions/prayers, reflections. Photographs and display.

## **Planning, Recording and Evaluating of Collective Worship**

- through reference to the church's seasons, significant dates and the Come and See curriculum
- with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- adequately resourced

### **Recorded**

- Through photographs, newsletter, twitter etc.
- On the schools planning sheet

### **Evaluated**

- By staff and pupils on a regular basis
- Collective Worship is observed annually by the Head teacher/Deputy Head Teacher/R.E. Governor.
- Samples of Collective Worship planning collected once each half term
- Pupil voice is collected each year and feedback shared with governors.

### **Conclusion**

Every effort will be made to ensure that frequent discussion of the Collective Worship Policy will take place in order to develop fully our Faith Community. This is an ongoing and continuous process requiring a close partnership between teachers and pupils and the involvement of others as appropriate

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

At St Aloysius catholic Primary School, we plan to provide for all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, socio- economic status, cultural background, academic ability, SEN need, or vulnerability to achieve their full potential.

### **REVIEW OF POLICY**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and every three years by the Governing Body. If changes are made to the policy, the Governing Body will ratify amendments.

### **Policy Links:**

RE Policy

Spirituality Policy

## Appendix 1



## Collective Worship Planner

Class:

Year:

Theme:



|   | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|--------|---------|-----------|
| <u>Preparation</u>  |        |         |           |
| <i>We gather</i><br>     |        |         |           |
| <i>We listen</i><br>   |        |         |           |
| <i>We respond</i><br>  |        |         |           |
| <i>Going Forth</i><br> |        |         |           |