

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response in a variety of ways;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school community gathering together in different ways and at different times. We expect all children to take an active part in the assembly. Adults are also encouraged to participate in our collective worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’. Our assemblies are always based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Christian Church, with scripture always having a prominent focus. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faith, beliefs and practices of all members of our school.

While all acts of worship in our school are Christian, some of our assemblies also address issues related to the whole school and wider community.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. These are outlined below:

Day	Time	Assembly	Led by
Monday	9.05– 9.20am	Prayer Reflection	led by teachers on a rota basis (Sunday Gospel Reading)
Tuesday	9.05- 9.30am	Whole School Assembly	led by Deputy Headteacher with Music teacher
Wednesday		Collective Worship in classrooms	led by classteacher, supervisory assistants or children.
Thursday	2.55 – 3.15pm	Celebration Assembly	led by Headteacher and open to all parents.
Friday		Collective Worship in classrooms	led by classteacher, supervisory assistants or children.

Although the assemblies are normally led by the Headteacher or other members of staff, we welcome local religious groups or charities to lead assemblies also.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an

appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the scripture and teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and activities including singing hymns. We create an atmosphere for worship by providing a visual focus with relevant objects and using liturgical colours when appropriate, music, and candles or other symbols, to help focus the attention of the children. We also endeavour to consider children's learning styles and provide a variety ways that children can be involved e.g. signing, drama, playing instruments, helping with resources, and setting up the worship space.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian liturgical calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our liturgies in detail and in advance of the day they are to be celebrated.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Some of our liturgies are held in the Cathedral and sometimes in other local churches. We also celebrate liturgies in the school and parents are usually invited to attend these. Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship will be the role of the named school governor, who is also responsible for Religious Education. The governor concerned will liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.