



Diocese of Middlesbrough



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

St Mary's Policy

Spring 2025



Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

Together we journey with Jesus, Inspiring each other to learn.

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. 'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 and only experience of church;
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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.'

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.² In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Black History Month.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

New Starter Liturgy, Class Liturgies, School Mass, Easter Holy Week Liturgy, Advent and Christmas celebration liturgies.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Staff prayer takes place at the beginning of every school year stroke term. Step must live by and staff liturgies are shared throughout the year. Staff prayed together at staff meeting times. Any whole staff gathering begins and ends with prayer.

The timetable of Collective Worship - see prayer and Liturgy Drive

Collective worship takes place daily in school

Whole school gathering together

Class liturgy led by children one day each week key stages gathering together using Lectio Divina

Junior Chaplains plan and lead liturgy for the school.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in the Liturgy Drive

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject lead monitors liturgies throughout the year following the guidance in the handbook RE coordinators sampling a range of liturgy experiences.

Resources

Collective Worship is well resourced.

Resources for collective worship are located in the prayer room and individual classrooms they include books posters music artefacts linked the liturgical year and world faiths candles bibles weekday missals the Roman Missal, online resources are also accessed through CAFOD, Mission Together resources from the trust chaplaincy team (sharepoint).

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

Alton Castle has been used for Retreat alongside our partner school St Mary & St Joseph for Year 6. This is something we are looking to reinstate, Year 23-24.

Other opportunities and Voluntary Worship

Chaplaincy team and staff plan and offer prayer groups and discussion groups throughout the year for example rosary advent CAFOD, Lenten prayer groups these take place in the prayer room we joined the parish for mass in church to celebrate events in the churches year and school celebrations.

Prayer spaces offer independent prayer activity for children to access around the school, linked to liturgical year and events.

Eucharist

The children attend Mass in church throughout the year where they share and partake in the celebration of Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

Children prepare for first receiving the Eucharist in the Parish.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

*The Coordinators for Collective Worship are
Rebecca McKenna and Julie Sutherland
Rachel Goodwin leads on Catholic Life and supports.*

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and LSB every two years. The Foundation Governors from the LSB in particular will play a most important role.

Review Date – **Spring 2025**

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Adviser

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Appendix 2

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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, “on a special occasion”.

In this school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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.

Appendix 3

Resources for Collective Worship in Catholic Primary Schools

Books

A First Look- Prayer: Lois Rock. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) ISBN: 0745937519

And the Children Pray: Janaan Manternach. Ave Maria Press (1989) ISBN: 0877934126

Assemblies for liturgical seasons & school occasions, Volume One : Jude Groden and Christ O'Donnell :McCrimmon :0-85597-615-2

Volume Two – Assemblies for Feasts, Mary and the Saints: 0-85597617-9

Celebrating the Mass: Bishop's Conference. Catholic Truth Society (2005) ISBN: 1860822908

Children's Daily Prayer: Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Liturgy Training Publications : 1-57854-375-1 (Published annually for the beginning of the academic year).

Classroom Prayer Services for the Days of Advent and Lent : Gwen Costello :Twenty-third Publications : 0-89622-737-5

Don't just do something - Sit there: (Developing children's spiritual awareness) : Mary K. Stone. An RE-ME Enquiry Service Publication : ISBN 1-897-805-01-2

Enjoying the Mass: Joan Brown. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039736

Guided Meditations for Children 1,2 and 3 – How to teach Children to Pray using Scripture: Jane Reehorst, B.V.M.

In Joyful Hope – Advent Prayer and Worship in the Catholic Primary School: Carmel Hanley fcj and Rita Tunstall : available from Sr Carmel FCJ, 214 Barton Road, Stretford M32 8DP

Looking Beyond: Jill Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN 1840039841

Multi- Sensory Prayer: Sue Wallace. Scripture Union Publishing (2000) ISBN: 1859994652

New Ideas for Creative Prayer: Judith Merrell. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN 1859995896

Our Poems and no messin': Margaret Cooling. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN: 1859995896

Poems and Prayers for a Better World: compiled by Su Box and Felicity Henderson : Lion : 0-7459-3886-8

Pray Together: Pat Ainge. 2 Volumes. Kevin Mayhew. ISBN 9781848671782

Prayer of a Fragile World: Carol Watson. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) IBSN: 0745937055

Praying with Children – Some ways and means: Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-546-6

Seasons of Celebrations – Prayers, Plays and Projects for the Church Year : Patricia Mathson : Ave Maria Press :0-87793-566-1

Spirit of the Season: a free to use/copy classroom resource : at www.liturgy.demon.co.uk

Spiritual Garments: Julie McCann. Decani Books (2006) ISBN: 1900314177

The Lord Be With You – Introducing the Mass to Children: Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-579-2

The Welcome Table – Planning Masses with Children: (Contains the complete text of the Church's *Directory for Masses with Children*) : Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Archdiocese of Chicago. Liturgy Training Publications : 0-930467-38-8

Ways to Pray with Children: (Prayers, Services and Activities): Barbara Ann Bretherton. Twenty-Third Publications : 0-89622-670-0

Welcome: Celebrations for young children for the Church's year: Jenny Pate. McCrimmons: 085597642-X

Whispering in God's Ear: Alan Macdonald. Lion Hudson Plc (2004) ISBN: 0745936725

You're Special: Julia Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039841

Prayer and Worship Resources

Prayer Themes & Guided Meditations	B.A. Bretherton
With the Word of God	J. Groden & C. O'Donnell
Directory on Children's Masses	Congregation for Divine Worship
Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children	"
Marking the Liturgical Year	Diocese of Portsmouth
With Hearts and Minds	Bishops' Conference

Musical Resources

Agape: Marty Haugen

Alive-O: Veritas

All Are Welcome: Marty Haugen

A Year of Celebration – Songs for Children : McCrimmon

0-855975-44-X Melody/Guitar Edition

0-85597-552-0 Congregational copy

Revised edition contains an index cross-referring to the 'Here I Am' programme.

Celtic Mystic Moods: Seamus Byrne

Christ Be Our Light: Bernadette Farrell

Classic FM: Various Artists

Come All You People - 40 shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

Dreamcatcher: Secret Garden

Fire of Love: Margaret Rizza

Fountain of Life: Margaret Rizza

God Beyond All Names: Bernadette Farrell

How Can I Keep From Singing 1 & 2: CJM Music

Jubilate: Taize

Kidscourse : Kevin Mayhew, (K) : 1-84003-310-X

Light The Fire: Liam Lawton

Quiet Time: Frank Leto

Rejoice and Sing: CJM Music

Rejoice One and Rejoice Two – Songs for Celebration : Collins : 0-00-711776-0 (One)

0-00-711777-9 (Two)

CD's to accompany 'Here I Am'.

Restless Is The Heart: Bernadette Farrell

Resurrexit: Taize

Sacred Story: Liam Lawton

Share the Light : Bernadette Farrell : OCP Publications

Songbook, ref. 111549TC

Cassette, ref. 111550TC

CD set, ref. 111551TC

The CD includes videos of some of the songs using American and British Sign Language, playable on a computer.

Shepherd Moons: Enya

Someone's Singing Lord : A&C Black (SSL) : 0-7136-1730-6

Songs for Everyday Assembly : Out of the Ark Music : 0-951911-61-9

Songs of Sanctuary: Adiemus

The Celts: Enya

The Complete Come and Praise : BBC, (CCP) : 0-563-34580-2

The Healer: Seamus Byrne

There is One Among Us –more shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

Walking By Faith: David Haas & Robert W. Piercy

Watch & Pray: Taize

With You Always: Taize

John Burland CD's: See 'Come and See' website



**Any classical compilations can be bought quite cheaply
in music shops.**

**This list is by no means exhaustive. It gives some good
examples. Continue to build your own store of
resources.**

