

St Mary's R.C. Primary School Policy for Collective Worship

Our School Mission Statement: "Jesus is the heart of our school"

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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship in this school is central to its character and fundamental in promoting a sound basis for Christianity to flourish.

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.

Our school will ensure that Collective Worship will provide quality opportunities in which all our children can participate effectively 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 dedicate time to reflect, to wonder, and to value.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in St. Mary's school will:

- Be centred around prayer and reflection based on the rites of the Church and inspired from Scripture.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils, knowledge and skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.
- 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.¹ 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 (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e. Key Stage 1: 5 – 6 mins;*
Key Stage 2: 7-10 mins.
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.Be central to the spiritual development of all in the school community and provide a range of experiences to encourage the engagement and participation of all with awe and wonder.

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Organisation of Collective Worship

See:

Appendix 1: Weekly Collective Worship Programme

Planning & Leading

Worship in school

The Headteacher and Class Teachers have overall responsibility for preparing and leading whole school acts of worship.

Individual classes/groups of pupils, with their class teacher or the Headteacher, plan and lead whole school liturgies for special celebrations.

Each class teacher is responsible for overseeing the planning and leading of Class Worship and for developing and encouraging pupils to share this role.

Worship from World Faiths

Some acts of worship may contain material from other faiths. Stories and prayers from other traditions can be suitably introduced at festivals and events that already cross faith boundaries e.g. Harvest/Prayer for world peace/themes and values which are common to all faiths e.g. love, justice, compassion, self control and hope.

Fundraising

The children participate in activities to support international, national and local charities such as CAFOD, Children In Need and Macmillan Nurses. Awareness of such groups and charities is regularly promoted through collective worship and provides a focus for prayer and reflection. School ensures that Collective Worship raises awareness of the needs of others whether long term or arising from sudden events such as natural disasters. E.g. Haiti earthquake

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on the collective worship programme and the weekly diary.
Copies of previous liturgies including information about structure, groupings, resources etc are kept by the Headteacher and the RE Subject Leader
- each class adding to their Class Collective Worship book throughout the school year which includes a collection of evidence of pupil's involvement such as prayers, reflections, art work, photographs and worship planning sheets.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision for worship is regularly evaluated to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils and enables them to progress in acquiring skills and confidence in organising and leading worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher in consultation with the R.E. Subject Leader.

Evaluation of collective worship is evidenced through the views expressed by pupils, staff, parents, carers, parish priest and parishioners

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally in the hall or in each classroom and are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role.

See Appendix 3 with list of suggested resources to be used in a Catholic Primary School

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will 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.

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy.

Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Class Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at St Joseph and St Francis Xavier Church

Management of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is managed by the Headteacher and the RE Subject Leader.

Legal Requirements

See Appendix 2

Policy Monitoring and Review

In line with school improvement planning, staff and governors review policies in a regular cycle.

J Collins (Headteacher)

K Whitehead (R.E. Subject Leader)

January 2016**Review January 2018**

Appendix 1

St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Richmond Collective Worship Programme

Monday a.m.	Whole School Collective Worship Group lead the Statement to live by Worship Liturgy of the Word led by HT.	Based on Statements to Live By Gospel from the Sunday
Tuesday a.m.	Class Worship Children in their own year group prepare and lead Collective Worship in their respective classes	linked to HIA Topic/ Gospel/Statements to Live By/Feasts or Saints' days.
Wednesday a.m.	Class worship Circle time /PSHE theme lead by the Class Teacher	Statements to Live by/PSHE themes/Feasts or Saints' days
Thursday a.m.	Whole School Hymn Practice Prayers Led by Class Teachers	Hymn practice – developing repertoire for use in Liturgies/preparation for a specific celebration as needed
Friday a.m.	Whole School Celebration Assembly Led by HT or senior staff Each class is timetabled to lead the Celebration Assembly	Concluding the week's Statement to Live by. Celebration of the week's achievements both in and out of school (for pupils and adults) Merit Awards House point totals

**All pupils share in Morning Prayer, Grace before meals and Evening prayer,
within their class settings.**

Additional opportunities for class based liturgies arise through the topics of the 'Come and See' Scheme.

Liturgies always include the 4 key elements: (As displayed in each class)

Gathering together
The Word of God
Response
Going forth

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, as with any Voluntary Aided 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

Suggested 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

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

Fifty Masses with Children : Francesca Kelly : Columba Press : 1-85607-043-3

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

Masses with Young People. Sr Jude Groden and Father Christopher O'Donnell. McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd (2006) ISBN 0855976802

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

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

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

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