

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



Collective Act of Worship Policy

Mission Statement

We are a Roman Catholic community, placing God at the centre of our lives. Christian values permeate every aspect of the school day. As a small friendly school, we aim to produce the warmth and intimacy of the family. We recognise each individual as special and loved by God, caring for one another and fostering love, trust and respect. When mistakes are made we recognise them as opportunities for learning and consequent reconciliation.

We aim to help all children fulfil their potential. We have high expectations of the children; we want them to do their best socially, personally, academically and spiritually.

We recognise each child's full entitlement to education. We value children's uniqueness and endeavour to nurture their potential. We strive to promote in them a sense of personal worth and self-confidence, as well as an awareness of their responsibilities to self and others.

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 a relationship, 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.

At St Mary Magdalen's, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

Worship at St Mary Magdalen's school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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

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 develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

Celebrations will:

- Be appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

At St Mary Magdalen's we have a wide ranging schedule of Collective Worship.

[Attached are the dates for 2017-2018 Appendix 1](#)

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates, feast days and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- 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.
- Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.
- A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- ❖ **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **The Word** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary
- ❖ **Response to the Word** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Mission** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Every act of worship is recorded on either a pro forma ([Appendix 2&3](#)). In 2018-2019 the school will begin to use one format ([Appendix 2](#)) to further reinforce the children's understanding of acts of worship.
- 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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.

Collective worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form ([Appendix 4](#)). Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has a collective worship box which should be used for class worship. There are central resources in the stock cupboard in the hall. Teachers have bibles and personal resources in their own rooms.

Those preparing for First Holy Communion

Children preparing for First Holy Communion have several acts of worship that form part of the preparation. There is an induction mass in the parish church; this is attended by the children, parents, parishioners and members of the school community. The children also attend a Benediction Service during school time.

There are planned reconciliation services and First Holy Communion Services and the programme is completed with a Going Forth Service.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The co-ordinator for collective worship is Mrs Patricia Shields who is also the R.E. co-ordinator.

Description of Role and Responsibilities ([Appendix 5](#))

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school on a termly basis.

Appendix 1

Attached are the dates for 2017-2018

September 2017

Friday 22nd Harvest Mass and Start of the Autumn Term
Tuesday 25th Reception's Welcome assembly
Thursday 28th Year 4 Assembly

October 2017

Thursday 19th Year 6H Assembly

November 2017

Wednesday 1st Mass for All Saints and All Souls
Thursday 9th Year 6F Assembly
Thursday 23rd Year 5 Assembly
Monday 27th Advent Services for KS1 and KS2

December 2017

Tuesday 12th Infant Nativity
Wednesday 13th Infant Nativity
Tuesday 19th Carol Concert

January 2018

Wednesday 10th Mass for Epiphany Mass

February 2018

Thursday 1st Year 3M Assembly
Thursday 8th Year 3T Assembly

March 2018

Thursday 1st Year 2 Assembly
Thursday 8th Year 1 Assembly
Saturday 12th Year 3 First Reconciliation Mass in Church
Thursday 15th Reception Assembly
Wednesday 28th Year 6F Way of the Cross
Thursday 29th Year 6H Way of the Cross

April 2018

Wednesday 25th First Mass of Summer Term

May 2018

Wednesday 9th Year 4 Class Mass
Thursday 10th Ascension Day Mass led by Y3T
Wednesday 16th Year 3M Class Mass
Wednesday 23rd Year 3T Class Mass

June 2018

Wednesday 13th Year 6F Class Mass
Saturday 9th First Holy Communion
Saturday 16th First Holy Communion
Friday 29th Mass St Peter and St Paul
Saturday 30th First Holy Communion

July 2018

Friday 20th End of year Mass Led by Year 6

Appendix 2

Act of Collective Worship - Staff

Date:

Led By:

Theme:

Stimulus/Story

Scripture References:

Music/Hymns:

Prayer: (Formal prayer of the Church, Hymn - singing the prayer, school prayer, quiet time for private prayer)

Reflection

Appendix 3

Child Led Worship

Gather:

The Word:

Response to the Word:

Mission:

Appendix 4

Year Group:

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:

Focus	Comments
Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have the children been involved in the planning?• Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?	
Structure (If Liturgy) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified?• How did children gather?• Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently?• How did children respond to the Word?• Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?	
Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child or adult led?• Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?	
Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically?• Was it a prayerful experience?	
Creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How creative was the Act of Worship?• Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?	
Prayer Space <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts?	
ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?	
Agreed areas for development	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...

Appendix 5

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 head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

PLANNING, RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the head teacher 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 head teacher 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 Centre

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising in-service 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