

St Anne's Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Our Mission at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School is to ensure a safe and caring learning environment in which Every Child is given Every Chance to achieve their full potential

We recognize that every individual is unique and formed in God's image and likeness and it is this that guides our daily work.

Freedom of thought, belief and religion

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grew up.

Aims:

- To love learning and thirst for knowledge
- To grow in Christian love through the teachings of the scriptures
- To acknowledge and respect difference
- To love and feel loved
- To respect our environment
- To forgive and be forgiven

Introduction:

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 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. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School:

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

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love

for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening. 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

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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time out to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'.

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
- 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.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate 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.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole School Assembly led by Deputy Headteacher

Tuesday – Class collective worship

Thursday – Whole school Mass in St. Anne's Church

Friday – Whole School Assembly led by a class or Headteacher

Awards and House points.

Planning:

- Class Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure using the 5Ws. (a sample copy of a planning sheet is attached). Collective Worship opportunities are identified in 'Come and See' used to plan R.E. Lessons. Also, on the 'H' Drive there is a folder containing Collective Worship plans.
- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Collective Worship planning is saved on the schools system.

Once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These can be found on the school system, in the Come and See materials, Caritas books, Ten Ten resources, the Wednesday Word, as well as several Internet sites eg. CAFOD.

Eucharist:

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 whole school masses which take place every Thursday in St. Anne's church. Each class from Y1 to Y6 takes turns in planning the Masses. In addition Just Youth hold individual class Masses with pupils from Y4 to Y6 throughout the year.

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation during Y3. Special Sunday Masses will be arranged for these children to participate in.