

ST JOHN LLOYD CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

School Mission Statement

“Learning and Growing Together in Christ”

“A Christian community which recognises the dignity and value of the individual and in which all members are encouraged to develop their potential in terms of knowledge, understanding, spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness”.

ST JOHN LLOYD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Policy for Collective Worship

Reviewed by Governors December 2021

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Policy for Collective Worship

As expressed in our Mission statement, our school is committed to fostering the faith growth and spiritual development of members of the school community by

- i) providing opportunities and encouraging members in their prayer life
- ii) providing opportunities for participation in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments of the Church.

It is our responsibility to provide for all our members, a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Collective worship in our school will be:

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

in order to ensure that the collective worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

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.¹

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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

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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.

- 1 It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of ‘Collective Worship’ in schools. ‘Collective Worship’ is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. ‘Prayer’ and ‘Liturgy’ are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.
- 2 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 need to 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.

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 who 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.

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 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.’

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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 students positive liturgical experiences in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation of Collective Worship

ROTA 2012-2013

MONDAY	Whole School	HALL
TUESDAY	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11	FORM
WEDNESDAY	Year 7 Years 8-11	HALL FORM
THURSDAY	Year 8 and 9 Years 7, 10 and 11	HALL FORM
FRIDAY	Year 10 & 11 Years 7,8 and 9	HALL FORM

Collective Worship takes place in Form Class on all other days led by the Form Tutor and a pupil - Celebrant of the Week.

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The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following the Church Liturgical Calendar and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties including the school’s Chaplaincy Team, Heads of Learning 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.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- by the Chaplaincy team, Heads of Learning and Tutors who 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.

Resources

These are made available on the Staff area of the School Network and also through the RE department and Heads of Learning. There is also a designated teacher for preparing Liturgy and distributing resources to Heads of Learning. Each year group is given training at the start of each half term to help them to plan their act of worship.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The School provides opportunities for voluntary worship through services such as voluntary Mass, the recital of the Rosary etc.

There are also retreats in Key Stage 3 (OLQP) and Key Stage 4 – Kintbury

There is also the opportunity to visit places such as Rome on the RE trip.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be celebrated with specific year groups selected to lead the preparation. 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.

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Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Chaplaincy Team, Deputy Head and Heads of Learning and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship – overseen by Mrs Lawrence (HOD RE) and undertaken jointly by the Chaplaincy Team, Miss Fiorillo (Pastoral Deputy) and Heads of Learning

- 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
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher 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 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 Diocesan RE Coordinator (Sr. Angela Murray and Mr. Bernard Stewart)

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

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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

Guidelines on Nurturing Collective Worship

Definitions and Distinctions

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of “Collective Worship” in schools. Collective Worship is the term used in legislation in this country but it is not a phrase we would readily use in a Catholic context. “Prayer” and “liturgy” are terms with which we are more familiar.

Prayer

“Prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for God” [Catechism of the Catholic Church 2560].

“Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.” [Therese of Lisieux].

At the heart of the Christian faith is the belief in a God who communicates with people. God calls every human person into a loving relationship and as with every relationship; our relationship with God can only grow through communication. Prayer is the way in which we engage in communication with God. Christians believe that prayer is essential to human fulfilment for it is only in God that we can discover ourselves, our meaning and our purpose.

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You” [St. Augustine].

Prayer consists of:

listening - being attentive to the voice of God in every moment of life.

speaking - expressing our heart’s deepest longings and desires to the One who knows and understands us better than we know and understand ourselves.

reflecting - thinking about our relationship with God. Pondering on the actions of God in history and in the unfolding mystery of our lives.

resting – simply being consciously in the presence of God, knowing that we are loved. One of the Early Fathers of the Church described prayer as “... the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.”

These words of St John Damascene have become a classical definition of prayer and they point to the reason why, in a Catholic school, we begin the day in prayer. Prayer can have a variety of forms and styles and express different things. The Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies the following forms of prayer:

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- Blessing and Adoration – the prayer which blesses God for the goodness which has been shown to humankind
- Petition – the prayer which asks for forgiveness and which calls for the establishment of the Kingdom of God
- Intercession – consists in asking on behalf of another
- Thanksgiving – acknowledging the gifts which God has given
- Praise – the prayer which praises God simply because God is [CCC 2623 –2649]

The liturgy is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the fount from which all her power flows [This is the Liturgy 10]

“Liturgy” literally means, “work of the people”, and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Liturgy makes explicit the celebration deriving from and highlighting every instance of worship, which occurs in our daily lives. To liturgical celebration therefore, should be brought all human symbols of expression - art, dance, poetry, music, gesture

The ‘Liturgy of the Word with Children. Guidelines’ [1996 The Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales] lists the **General Principles of Liturgy**:

Liturgy

- Liturgy is the praise and worship of God.
- Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church’s life and our lives.
- It is the right and duty of all baptised, both children and adults.
- The function of the liturgy is to build up members of Christ’s body, to strengthen us in preaching Christ.
- Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the whole person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell.
- Participating in liturgy forms our habits because we are ritual people and learn through repetition and copying.
- In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer, through word and gesture, silence and stillness.
- The purpose of adapting liturgy for young people is to lead them into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish.
- Liturgy with young people, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and simplicity.

Collective Worship

God is present and active in all authentic human experience. We already have a graced life and **worship** is naming and celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. God is reached through the world and adored within it. Creating a sacred space for worship is to create a space where the unity of God and creation is reverently symbolised and celebrated. Worship and the words and rituals we use should not sever us from the ordinary circumstances of our lives but rather unite us more closely to them.

- Worship remembers and celebrates the marvellous things God works in our lives. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. Worship should not feel like an interruption from a different world. It is a spontaneous response to life.

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- Collective Worship 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.
- Worship will be at the very heart of every Catholic school and must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.
- Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others may form part of an act of worship.

All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.

An assembly is any experience of gathering/assembling in school. It may include an act of worship but the difference between worship and assembly must always be clear.

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Worship Planning Sheet

Theme: _____

Class / Year Group / KeyStage _____

Gathering together

Setting the atmosphere. E.

Music

Lighting

Displayed image

Worship

A reading from Scriptures, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit the theme.

Bible reading:

We will pray for....

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Action / Response to the Word

A ritual or movement that fits the theme in which everyone can join (e.g. Shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses, posing questions to reflect on etc.)

Mission / Going forth

The sending out from the celebration giving the students something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives. E.g. a challenge (Christ the king – the Gospel discusses truth students could be set a challenge focussed on the truth for example speaking up for faith- telling friends not to use God’s name in vain or being truthful in a difficult situation)

Resources

(As well as Assembly books in staff room and RE department)

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Prayer Experiences

Pupils are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, which are developed in ways.

Example:

- Praying the psalms ‘I thank you for the wonder of my being’ [Psalm 139]
- Traditional prayers Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary
- Repetitive prayer [mantra] ‘Jesus, I love you’, repeated several times, slowly
- Meditation Scripture reflection with use of imagination
- Bodily prayer raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting
- Prayer of the heart stillness to listen to God: ‘Be still and know that I am God.’
- Contemplation looking at trees, a sunset, an icon etc.
- Gestures the sign of the cross, the sign of peace
- Hymns traditional and modern hymns
- Music listening to quiet, reflective music
- Litanies For all creation: Thanks be to God
- Processions Gospel procession with sung ‘alleluia’
- Prayer services and liturgies formal and spontaneous prayer using holy water, candles, incense and other symbols
- Celebrations prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done

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Celebrant of the Week

Week Beginning	Name(s)	Theme of the Week
26/11/12		Christ the King
3/12/12		Freedom from fear
10/12/12		Preparing the way
17/12/12		Sharing what we have
7/1/13		Epiphany
14/1/13		Mary mother of the Church
21/1/13		Unity
28/1/13		Christ's body- The Church
4/2/13		The humanity of Christ
18/2/13		Worshipping God alone
25/2/13		Finding out Gods Will
4/3/13		Repentance
11/3/13		Reconciliation
18/3/13		Trying again
25/3/13		Holy Week
15/4/13		Living Witness
22/4/13		Good Shepherd/vocation
29/4/13		Love one another
6/5/13		The Peace of Christ
13/5/13		One with God
20/5/13		Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
3/6/13		God has no favourites; THE BODY OF CHRIST
10/6/13		Compassion
17/6/13		Forgiveness
24/6/13		Equality
1/7/13		Commitment
8/7/13		The peace of Christ
15/7/13		Love your neighbour

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Useful Web Resources

<http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>

On the relevant week the site will have a link to the relevant bible readings.

www.biblegateway.com

type in a bible reference and you can get the bible online; useful because you can change the bible translation (Good News Translation, New International Version and Contemporary English Version recommended for forms)

<http://www.prayingeachday.org/reflect.html>

reflect and pray tag particularly useful for ideas. Provides information or thoughts for the day with story/information and a prayer.

<http://www.beibl.net/>

Welsh Bible resource.

This is a growing and developing list which will be added to with help. Remember to make use of the RE department for any support you require with collective worship.