



St. Cuthbert's R.C.
Primary School Hartlepool

Collective Worship Policy

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Diocese

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

"Let the light of Christ shine in us all."

Introduction

"A Catholic Education is Christ centred. A Catholic school forms its living culture on the Gospel. It does so by striving to live the Gospel and not merely by how it is taught and learnt."

Catholic Education Service. 'Catholic Schools and Colleges: Their Roles and Purpose' 2004

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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils (note 1). We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body and the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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.

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

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 positive attitudes.
- To participate fully.
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, and family backgrounds.
- Make links between the Parish, Gospel and their own lives.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

There will be whole school collective worship every Monday morning led by a senior leader. This will be based on Sunday's Gospel and our whole school mission.

There will be Key Stage collective worship each Tuesday led by teachers on a rota system. This is an introduction to the statement to live by of the week. Each class displays the current statement close to their focal point.

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings all pupils participate in short collective worship in their class groups.

Pupils lead worship at the end of each topic three times a term to remember, rejoice and renew. Parents are invited. It is expected that the children will take an increasing lead in the planning of these liturgies. Records of collective worship are kept in R.E. books and by the R.E. Leader. Let us pray (2003) resources are used to plan liturgy by pupils.

Daily opportunities for prayer take place at the beginning and end of each day and before lunch. These include formal and informal prayer, periods of stillness and silence. Pupils are encouraged to lead their own prayers which are role modelled by the adults working in that room.

Year 6 /Year 7 Holy Family Parish Masses and Liturgy

Liturgies and Mass in church are held throughout the year on feast days and special occasions. These include Mass to celebrate the start of the school year including a Holy Family cluster

mass for including a Holy Family cluster mass for Year 6 / Year 7 with English Martyrs. In November we have a remembrance liturgy and mass, Advent and Christmas celebrations during the Autumn Term, Lent and Easter celebrations during the Spring Term and end of school year celebrations in the Summer Term.

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, Let us pray materials and weekly gospel, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship.
- 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.
- Liturgical Collective Worship follows the structure: -

Gather, Word, Respond, Mission/ Go forth.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- In the R.E. Leaders file through monitoring and evaluation sheets to keep a note of themes, leaders, pupil group, age and resources
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure our pupils are participating in high quality, meaningful worship the RE Leader follows Diocesan guidance. Collective Worship is evaluated through pupil voice.

Resources

A wide range of assembly resources and liturgy ideas are kept in the R.E. focal points cupboards in the school hall.

- Coloured cloths for each season are available in each classroom. (a box for each classroom).
- 'God's Story' and 'Church Story' resources are available in each classroom and in digital format on the school IT network.
- A good selection of bibles is available in both KS1 and KS2.
- Joint resources, such as books, and resources from other faiths, are stored in the staff room and KS2 library areas.
- Useful website addresses have been distributed by the RE Leader "Come and See logins folder.

R.E. provided resources' are held in the staff shared area on computer.

School Wide Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Children are invited to attend Friday lunchtime Mass with the Parish once a month.

Every year we hold a day retreat for year 6 pupils at the Youth Village as part of our Youth Mission (Diocesan Wide).

Children's Services, organised by Parish Catechists and the children preparing for the First Communion Programme, are held at Christmas and during Lent. Stations of the Cross for Children are held on Good Friday.

The parish and school come together in October to take part in the yearly family retreat at the Youth Village

The Leaders of Collective Worship

The Religious Education Leader, is also the coordinator for Collective worship, supported by the Headteacher as a Collective worship team.

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 every child within the school.
- 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.
- Evaluating Collective Worship.
- Informing the Headteacher and governors 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 Pastoral Area Youth Ministry Co-ordinator.
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre.

Professional Development/Ongoing Formation

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

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship R.E. Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular play a most important role.

Notes

1. *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.*