



Blessed
Sacrament
Catholic Primary
School

Collective Worship Policy

*‘Aim High- Live life and live it
to the full.’*

Adapted from St. John 10:10

2023 – 2024

Collective Worship Policy for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School



We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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 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 collective worship is not designated time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of schools' overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective worship in a Catholic school, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Collective worship considers 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

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to provide a warm, welcoming, happy and caring environment in which individuals can explore, express and develop their own personal relationship with God within the context of a worshipping community. Our faith is at the heart of all we do and the broad and balanced curriculum we provide. The school encourages and values all, the role played by all school staff, governors and parents and the wider community in supporting the spiritual, physical and educational growth of all our children. We aim to be a Gospel inspired community.





The Aims of Collective Worship at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School.

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 enrich religious experience.

To reinforce positive attitudes.

To participate fully.

To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.

To develop a common ethos and shared values.

To foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and action.

To grow in liturgical understanding and development.

To take time out 'to wonder at,' 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

To recognise and express the feeling and senses of beauty, wonder, pity, smallness, grandness, sadness, loss, peace, thoughtfulness, stillness and pride.

To place worship in the centre of the children's lives and in its rightful place in the school.

To include speakers from the wider community.

To be sensitive towards other faiths.

Places for Collective Worship.

Collective Worship can take place anywhere.

The school Hall – “Praise God in His Holy place.” (Psalm 150)



The classroom – “When two or three gather in my name I am there among them.” (M.18:20)



Outside/Sanctuary space – “Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.” (Roman Missal)



Church/Chapel – “Praise God in His Holy place.” (Psalm 150)



Classroom Worship

The class teacher or the children will lead acts of worship in the class at different times during the day. Teachers and children may choose their own themes or use our Blessed Sacrament CW Scriptures overview for suggestions. The theme may be to do with the current RE topic or seasonal, topical, some national event, sporting triumph or tragedy which has taken place. The theme is simply a vehicle for exploring some aspect of universal experience, and allows all the members of the class to share for a few moments ideas which may have a bearing on their own experience or life.

Use may be made of pictures, photographs, art work, stories, poems or natural artefacts. The list is unlimited!

Focus should be made on a specific item, a candle should be lit, music may be played while the children pray or listen or reflect.

Parents/carers will be encouraged to join the classes for collective worship throughout the year.

Year Group Collective Worship Assemblies

All teaching staff are encouraged to lead the weekly Collective Worship assembly. The focus can be linked to current RE learning or related to the liturgical time of the year or seasonal, topical, some national event, sporting triumph or tragedy which has taken place. Visitors are welcome e.g. CAFOD. Visitors often bring a new dimension and life to our celebrations.

Other Celebrations

Harvest- There is a Collective Worship assembly for all children to attend. The charities that are supported at this time are CAFOD, the homeless in Liverpool who are supported by the Sister's at Seel Street and the shoe box appeal.

Advent – All classes/year groups prepare an assembly or Nativity to which parents and carers are invited.

Lent – During Lent children organise fundraising events for charities.

Easter - All classes/year groups prepare a Collective Worship assembly celebrating Holy Week to which parents and carers are invited.

Holy Days – The children are given the Mass times in our parish and through our regular newsletters. Whenever possible, feast days are celebrated at Mass with our parish family. There is a link to the parish website and newsletter on our Catholic Life page.

Corpus Christi – This is our school's feast day and traditionally we hold our Thanksgiving Mass to celebrate the children having made their sacraments.

Sacraments – The parish catechists prepare the children and their families for Holy Communion and Reconciliation with support from school. The school further supports the children and families by attending church with the children and by teaching the sacraments through curriculum RE lessons.

Leavers' Mass – Parents are invited to attend the Mass and a celebration follows.

Masses – KS2 children celebrate Mass on a termly basis and in addition will gather to celebrate significant events in the school or Church calendar. KS1 children celebrate in school with a service led by the parish priest once per term.

Celebration of other cultures- as part of the wider curriculum.

Saints – Every year group celebrates a different significant Saint. The year group Collective Worship assembly will be based on their Saint when it is their week to be celebrated.

Mission Statement – The Mission Statement is revisited in Collective Worship assemblies at the beginning of every term.

Planning for Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be planned for, evaluated and recorded. All planning is available on our shared school drive. These will be monitored by the RE Team. At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary, the teachers plan with reference to the Liturgical seasons in line with the new RED, significant dates, the curriculum, sensitivity to the issues of the local community and the wider world. In planning our Collective Worship, we are mindful that taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It requires a response from those assembled.

Theme	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Loyalty	Loyalty	Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles 29th June	Loyalty
Gather	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDBJNQjgnM He's got the whole world in his hands		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaXPXWbcE3I Our God is a great big God	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdmgC7_SCgk If God is for us	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgpAU0gvYLPg&t=28s How great is our God
Listen	Matthew 10:26-33 <i>Do not be afraid of those who will kill the body.</i>		Acts 2:22-24 We are witnesses GS3 p134	Matthew 16:13-19 <i>You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.</i>	2 Corinthians 6:3-10 Paul's Happiness GS3 p144
Respond	<p>We pray for the Church throughout the world: that she may continue to follow Jesus' example of respect and love for all people. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for all our sisters and brothers around the world: that they may make their stories heard and have hope for the future, as they work to build a fairer world. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may see that all people are equally important, no matter whether they are rich or poor. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>God of life, help us to see the beauty of your world, and to treat all people</p>		<p>We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining example of true faith in Christ, who teaches us to love one another. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for people who face violence or prison because of what they believe in: that they may have the strength and courage to keep on standing up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may try to be like St Peter, strong in our faith, and that we may show that faith in all that we do, by treating other people with</p>	<p>We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of welcome and safety for all people. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world, especially those who are poor: that they may be able to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may open our hearts to Jesus and love our neighbour, wherever in the world they are. Lord, in your mercy...</p> <p>Living God, help us to live with love, faith, generosity,</p>	<p>Lord, we thank you for all the people who have shared the good news of love and forgiveness with us. We think quietly for a moment of those people. (pause)</p> <p>Lord, you call us to share the good news with others. We think quietly for a moment of how we might do this and we ask for your help. (pause)</p> <p>We pray together in the words of St Paul: May the Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.</p>

Suggestions for Leading Collective Worship

Think of a total of five to ten minutes depending on the content and age of the children. Plan for the age of the child e.g. 5 years - 5 minutes. It should include some time for thinking/reflecting, sharing, listening, and time for stillness and silence.

Use a focus which the children will learn to recognise and respect such as the lighting of the candle, a vase of flowers, a picture, a piece of sculpture, a cross and natural objects.

Use silence, through stilling exercises and guided meditation.

Keep the session simple and short and use some of the following;

A short passage of scripture (ALWAYS)

A picture, poster or slide

A prayer

A simple ritual

A hymn or song which they can join in

Music

Silence

Use music to begin and end

Invite children to reflect/evaluate on the content of the worship either individually or in small groups.

A well organised classroom act of worship may lead pupils into a quiet creative activity. Eg painting, writing

Recording

There is a folder on the shared drive containing the Collective Worship planning and copies of power points which have been prepared by staff for group gatherings. Any major celebration photographs should be sent to the nominated staff member to put on the website, uploaded to Earwig and shared on social media platforms. Both files will be monitored by the RE Team. The planning format for Collective worship can also be found on the shared drive.

The teacher should prepare and lead the Collective Worship. The teacher should act as an excellent role model and should withdraw their input gradually at the appropriate time. This should start simply e.g. choosing something for the Collective Worship focus table from the box.

Children from Nursery to Year 6 are able to work together with the teacher and become involved at an age appropriate level. See the 'Stepping Stones' document on the shared drive for more detail.

Nursery – begin to set up the focus table and decide how to gather.

Reception, Year 1– help to set up the focus table at least once a week, choose a gathering song or activity.

Year 2, 3, – as above and also choose a response once a week.

Year 4, 5 – as above plus select a way to Go Forth at least twice a week.

Year 6 – prepare a full Collective Worship at least once a week.

Class teachers - Model a themed approach to Collective Worship and support children to plan their part.

Creating the Environment for Prayer

At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School we aim to create an environment that encourages prayer.

- Prayerful images
- Appropriate music
- Suitable lighting
- Comfortable posture
- Atmosphere of peacefulness
- Respectful attitudes

Focus Worship Table

Each classroom has a designated area for prayer. The focus table must contain the following; a cross, the word, a candle and a focus and the surrounding area should be uncluttered. Each class has a box containing drapes, a range of candles and pictures. Teachers are encouraged to also collect their own objects such as shells, pine cones, bark etc

Drapes

The colour of the cloth can be different for each liturgical season.

Purple – Advent and Lent

White – Christmas, Easter, special feast days

Gold – Special celebrations

Green – ordinary time. (Pentecost to Advent/After Christmas to Lent)

Red – Pentecost, Good Friday

Other objects

Flowers and plants- greenery is a reminder of God's beautiful world and a gift of creation

Sacred Images – cross, statue, pictures of Jesus, Mary etc

Interesting objects – variety of pebbles, shells etc

Meaningful pictures – pictures appropriate to the theme

Prayer or story/ poetry books – open on a page which reflects the topic being taught.

Oil burners or incense sticks – aromatic smells are relaxing for prayer

The list is endless! Children also like to bring in objects for the focus table.

There are prayer booklets for each year group which should be taught and shared daily. These can be found in the RE File on the shared drive.

Year Group Saints

At Blessed Sacrament each year group has its own Saint who they learn about and celebrate on their feast day. We have chosen saints who embody the core gospel values within our school.

Year	Saint	Feast Day	Gospel Values
Little Buds	Mother Teresa	5 th September	Humility and loving kindness
Nursery	St Anthony of Padua	13 th June	Love and forgiveness
Reception and THKS1	St Bernadette	16 th April	Spiritual growth and development
1	St Nicholas	6 th December	Kindness and forgiveness
2	St Joseph The Worker	1 st May	Living simply
3 and THKS2	St Francis	4 th October	Compassion and generosity
4	St Vincent de Paul	27 th September	Respect and advocacy
5	St Maria of Goretti	6 th July	Hope and forgiveness

6	St Martin de Porres	3 rd November	Inclusivity and honesty
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Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship will be monitored by the RE Team termly.
This Policy will be reviewed annually.

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds. A request should be put in writing to the Head Teacher.

Suggested Collective Worship Themes

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Friends/Getting to know you	The Epiphany/gifts	Jesus is risen alive/Rejoice
Dreams/Hopes/Values Aiming high.	Being still/trust/promises	What does Easter mean to me/the world?/Inspiration
Family/Different families/Rules	Followers/being a disciple	Who is the good shepherd?
Changing seasons Harvest/Autumn	Celebrating difference	Ascension/Hope/Glory
Rosary/Our Lady	Good and bad	Pentecost/Prayer/Holy Spirit/Good news
All Saints and all Souls	Preparing for Lent Self-sacrifice	Corpus Christi (School Feast day)
Remembrance/memories	Mercy of God Reconciliation/sorry	Father's Day Our Father Almighty
The cross /Religious symbols/Courage	New life/Good news/Lent	St Peter and St Paul
Advent 1/Stay Awake	Mothers/Our Lady (Mother's day)	Special Places Places of Pilgrimage
Advent 2/Prepare	Treasures/Awe and wonder/Living for God	Plans/What's next?/Inspiration people

Advent 3/Rejoice/Wait	Thanksgiving	Neighbours/One world
Christmas/Love/Giving	The Greatest week. Holy week	Moving On

Guide to planning

Gather

Create a focal point for the prayer time using pieces of material, candles, flowers, a bible etc.

Send out invitations to this special time of prayer.

Begin with a procession of all those involved in leading the prayer time.

Take time over the Gathering to create an atmosphere of prayer.

Use a Gathering chant that can be repeated and built up, may be interspersed with short phrases from Scripture

Listen

Pause at different points during a reading to allow time for quiet contemplation

Use bite size pieces of scripture but provide thoughts for reflection in between.

Dramatise the readings.

Create a short structure of Listen & Respond that you can repeat to build a larger structure.

Use passages from God's Story where possible

Respond

Write a letter to God (and perhaps write how you think God might respond)

Draw a picture.

Invite people to take part in a symbolic action linked to the theme of the prayer time e.g. placing a stone at the foot of the cross, washing hands, sprinkling grain on a map of the world.

Use silence or reflective music.

Go Forth

Give people a symbol/memento to take away: E.g. stone, cross, prayer card

End with a final song / hymn to accompany a procession out of school/church

Say a prayer

Give a suitable 'task' to remind the children of the theme e.g. to smile at children they don't know on the playground.

We use the Liturgy Office UK calendar to help prepare our Collective Worship

<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>

There is a choice of daily or weekly planning sheets in the Collective Worship folder.