



ST. WILLIAM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - SPRING 2014

Mission Statement

'By following Jesus' example we will encourage each other to achieve our potential through love, respect and an appreciation of everyone and everything.'

The Nature of Collective Worship

As a Catholic school, St. William's will provide worship that will broadly follow the guidelines laid down by the Christian Education Department; through the Liverpool Archdiocese.

All children and staff will normally take part in worship. However we do recognise parents' legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship and religious education. This would be in consultation with the Headteacher. Withdrawn pupils will participate in work from other curriculum areas.

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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

In our school

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.

Growing together in faith and learning, with love and respect

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.

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 encourage and 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
- 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;

Growing together in faith and learning, with love and respect

- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.¹ In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced (children’s attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship at St. Patrick’s will be:

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

At St. Patrick’s,

- Collective worship takes place daily, through unit and class collective worship as appropriate.
- Themes are drawn from:
 - a) The Wednesday Word (which follows the liturgical and seasonal themes of the Church).
The whole school follows the same theme for the week. Children are encouraged to bring their own pictures, prayers, thoughts and ideas to CW
 - b) As a response to a local or world issue
- Worship may be:
 - i) Teacher led
 - ii) Child led (small groups, paired or individually as appropriate).
- Worship is a time for quiet reflection, child response and formal and informal prayer. Child involvement is very important. It is a time of celebration, of sharing and for togetherness.

Projected outcomes include – to celebrate, to wonder, to give worth, to develop community spirit, to enrich spirituality, to share values, to reflect on, to contemplate God, to enrich....

Resources

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Resources for collective worship have been built up and now include a great variety of books and some artefacts.

Within each class, a collective worship box is provided. This includes a selection of fabrics and other resources from which the children can choose as they prepare the collective worship focus.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors as part of a policy review cycle.

The governing body will pay particular attention to matters of equality and diversity; it will seek to ensure that the school abides by the statutory duties of the Equality Act 2006 and that no child is treated unfairly because of race or ethnic background, gender or disability.