

Holy Name Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Holy Name is a Catholic Community working in partnership with parents /carers to nurture and educate the whole person, in the way of Christ, enabling all to know their worth and reach their potential.

Nature of Worship

“Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.”
(Circular 1/94) Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God.

Collective worship celebrates the presence of God in our daily lives and community. We give thanks and praise to God. It is our response to Gods love and to the love of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We have daily act of worship for all pupils in Holy Name School. Our worship can take place at different times in the day, in a variety of contexts.
At Holy Name we seek to be inclusive of everybody however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from collective worship if they wish. Suitable supervision is provided for such children but no additional work is set for them in this time.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (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, prayed either by the teacher or everyone present, does not necessarily fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are often 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 worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Collective Worship in Our School

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

Collective Worship can be led by staff or visitors, our children can also lead elements of Collective Worship with the adult as the facilitator. It can be offered for a class, a year group, Key Stage or whole school.

Worship is seen as central to the life of the school and our response to God's word. Collective Worship takes account of all who share in it, these include

- Our community in Church
- Those who experience school as their only experience of Church
- Those from other faith traditions

It is an experience which all can learn and develop from each other. We need to provide time, space and the correct environment for reflection and meditation to take place. The Quiet Room at our school is a good resource for Collective Worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

To consider the mystery of God.

To look at spiritual and moral issues as they arise.

To celebrate achievements in our daily lives.

To experience awe and wonder.

To enrich the religious experience of our children and staff.

To encourage full participation.

To aim to have shared values and attitudes.

To build a firm foundation for the experience of Liturgy. (Both formal & informal)

To provide opportunity for everyone to be still and quiet.

To give experience of a variety of forms of prayer.

To reflect on our belonging and community spirit.

To address issues that arise.

Principles of Collective Worship

Experiences of Collective Worship must respect the freedom learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship. All worship will reflect the Catholic life character and nature of our school.

We will Honour God.

Collective Worship will include a range of experiences and in different settings.

(Prayer/Reflection area, hall, classroom, Church and outdoor Prayer areas)

Collective Worship will last for one minute per year of a Child's life.

Planning/ Content of Collective Worship

When planning Collective Worship we plan with reference to the Church's Seasons, 'Come and See' and any appropriate Church and Parish dates.

It will need to be flexible to take account of changing situations and community issues that arise.

Please ensure that all steps are taken with regard to Health & Safety.

e.g. using candles, use of electrical equipment etc.

The context of Collective Worship should be varied and this should be reflected in planning. It is recognised that teachers may respond to local events as they arise and are flexible to accommodate this.

Planning for Collective Worship needs to ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length of time and resources to be used are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the pupils.

Collective Worship must ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

The atmosphere for Collective Worship must be right. It must take place in an orderly, calm and quiet atmosphere with a sense of reverence, including the entrance and exit. The use of artefacts, candles, symbols, lighting and Music should enhance the focus for Collective Worship.

Class Based Acts of Collective Worship

- Teachers organise, plan and prepare acts of worship, such as simple prayer services that are appropriate to the spiritual life of the class. These may incorporate music, drama, mime, reflection, meditation and litanies. Wherever possible this should be planned with the children's involvement.
- The whole school is involved in following a weekly theme. Teachers are asked to be flexible with this theme and plan according to their class needs as they develop.

All Acts of Worship follow the 'Emmaus Prayer' Structure

- Gather
- Listen
- Respond/Ritual
- Go Forth

Gather:

This movement of prayer calls the group to prayer and reminds them to be aware of God's presence and their relationship to God and each other. Always begin with the Sign of the Cross. Ideas for Gather: "call to presence/prayer" (a little reminder to set the tone, can have a response); opening song (relevant to theme); gestures or actions (closing eyes, deep breath etc.)

Listen:

This movement of the prayer gives the group a chance to hear the scriptures
Scripture is always a part of this movement Ideas for Listen: Stories, readings, drama, video clips, personal stories, witness reflection, music, songs, psalms, litanies

Response: The third movement of prayer reminds us that it is not enough to just hear the word of God, we must keep it. How will we respond to our awareness of how God continues to love us unconditionally? This movement of the prayer is how the students are responding to the scripture they have just heard in the Listen movement. Ideas for Respond: spontaneous (one word on a topic), composed, special intentions, familiar prayers, gestures, creating something (writing a short response), silent reflection/meditation, bless with water,

Go Forth:

The final movement of prayer sends us forth with a renewed sense of our mission to live the Gospel each and every day. Prayer helps us to focus on the big picture but also on the simple ways that each of us needs to be a disciple to those around us. How do you want to end this time of prayer? ****Always end with the Sign of the Cross****
Ideas for Send Forth: Spontaneous, composed, familiar, traditional, student created prayers, music, song, actions, gestures, blessing, exchange sign of peace

Recording

We have evidence from our displays, photographs, videos, pupil contributions, prayers in classes of Collective Worship that takes place in school.

We have a Planner that includes dates and themes of whole school Worship.

Evaluation

This is undertaken by staff and pupils on a regular basis, with reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible.

Resources

Resources, such as candles, flowers, pebbles etc are located in the Resource Room, for easy access and use by all staff.

CDs are located in the staff room or in the HT's Office.

A collection of Psalms and Prayers are available on the Teachers' Drive.

Mrs. Perry will also offer advice on appropriate music.

Any resources needed are addressed and purchased when appropriate.

The Quiet Room at our school provides a different environment where Collective Worship may take place.

Monitoring and review

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 religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory of Masses for Children' and Revised Roman Missal.
- Organising themes for collective worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for collective worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and feeding back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

The R.E. Co-ordinator monitors the provision for RE and provides a termly Report to the Executive Head teacher. The Executive Head teacher, in turn, reports to the Governing Body on the effectiveness of Religious Education and Collective Worship. This is reviewed every year.

At Holy Name we also have a Governor for Religious Education. –

This policy will be monitored by the Executive Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator and will be reviewed by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.