



# Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



## Approved Collective Worship Policy

### Our Mission Statement :

*'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)*

Agreed by Governors on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Signed  Chair of Governors

To be reviewed : January 2023

### Safeguarding Statement :

*Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.*

### Our School Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to developing independent, successful and confident children who have high aspirations, who gain a sense of achievement and leave our school with a wealth of happy memories.

### Our Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

### Introduction to Collective Worship in our Catholic School

Collective worship in a Catholic school is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour and thanksgiving may be given to Him. Collective worship should strengthen this eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective worship is this community's response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This policy is to support the liturgical life of the school by providing guidelines for various acts of worship from the individual, to class prayer times, to Masses with the parish and the wider community. We also recognise the rich multicultural society within which we live. We reflect other cultures in our worship and teachings where appropriate. We compare faiths to enable us to deepen our understanding of our own faith.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is an integral part of our daily school life and fulfils all legal requirements. We believe that collective worship:

- provides a quality experience and is fundamental to the life of the school.
- provides the opportunity for pupils to worship and give glory to God.
- allows time to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore beliefs.
- encourages participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- develops community spirit, promotes a common ethos and shared values, and reinforces positive attitudes.
- experiences a sense of belonging and develops community spirit through planned opportunities throughout the year.
- gives pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age.
- develops children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

### **Implementation**

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;

Collective worship in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

**Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

**Listen** - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), sharing the word, time to reflect on suitable prayers, including the four main types of prayer i.e Thanks / Asking / Praise / Sorry

**Respond** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (prayers and songs, gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

**Go forth**- the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy, a mission that they can take into their daily lives.

### **Planning**

When planning worship, it should reflect the theme or liturgical season of the church where appropriate. (For example, omitting Alleluia during a Lent worship, or have a lively upbeat service for a reconciliation service that has a reflective undertone.)

Allow the children to feel differences in the mood of the liturgical calendar and to experience different collective worship to further their spiritual self. As the children grow in age and confidence, they can take a more active part in the planning of liturgy.

Prayer services are held on a regular basis within classrooms as part of the children's Religious Education programme and collective worship.

Children should be encouraged to prepare and lead the prayer service as appropriate to their age.

Throughout Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children are encouraged to develop their individual prayer life through practice and participation in morning, before and after lunch, and home time prayers.

### **EYFS**

Children from Foundation, can prepare the focus- e.g. selecting the right liturgical colour of cloth, placing a candle and a Bible in the centre, with the adult placing any additional props.

### **Key Stage 1**

Children in Key Stage 1 can prepare the prayer focus, write simple prayers that can be used, they can help to choose the songs sung with guidance so they fit in the theme of the worship. Children can choose the artefacts needed and the correct liturgical cloths as a teaching point or reinforcement.

### **Key Stage 2**

Children in Key Stage 2 can plan simple acts of worship, reflecting on the four aspects Gather, Listen, Respond and Go. The children can think about the type of response that would be the most appropriate, e.g. John the Baptist, using holy water and inviting each child to bless themselves in response to a meditation read. They can lead through playing musical instruments and using recorded music through their worship.

### **Celebration of the Eucharist**

We celebrate holy Mass with our parish fortnightly on a Tuesday morning at 9.15am. At these Masses children participate by introducing the theme of the Mass, reading all the scripture readings and including their own written prayers.

Each child is encouraged to develop personal prayers according to their own experiences.

The children are encouraged to take active participation in religious celebrations. These are planned in advance by priest, Headteacher and RE subject leader, so they may be included in teacher's planning.

### **Assemblies**

Monday morning assemblies are usually liturgical in nature and are taken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT.

Friday assemblies are celebration assemblies but always begin and end with prayer and hymn singing. The whole school attend the above assemblies.

### **Special Liturgical Celebrations**

Foundation Stage & KS1 perform a Christmas play. This reflects the story of the Nativity. Parents, families and parishioners are invited.

Key stage 2 pupils are involved in the presentation of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Year 4 lead the Easter Reflection. It is a deeply moving and spiritual experience for all and is used as a teaching tool during Holy Week.

### **Right of Withdrawal:**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons and from collective worship. Alternative provision will be made. However, parents and prospective parents need to be aware that Religious

Education impacts on the rest of the curriculum and daily life within the school. Therefore, 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 Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship:**

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:-

- Formulating a written policy;
- Ensuring that the development of collective worship is included in the RE 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 and is rooted in the Catholic teachings;
- Organising themes for worship;
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship.

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community via the school website
- Parish priest
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship.

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