

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



School POLICY STATEMENT for Collective Worship

Vision and Mission

"We want our school to be a safe, secure and exciting place to learn and grow in Christ. A place where children, staff, families and governors work closely together to answer Christ's call."



Our Catholic school community works with a Christian purpose

- To promote an enthusiasm for enjoyment of learning
- To provide a board and well balanced curriculum
- To challenge children to reach their full potential
- To learn about God and his creation
- To answer Christ's call through our love for each other
- To foster in children independence and a sense of responsibility

"... For you are precious in My eyes"

(Isaiah Psalm 43)

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship, in Our Lady of Lourdes, celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our living response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

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 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 worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be incorporated in any other part of the curriculum, including religious education.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that 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 the church
- Those for who school may be their first and only experience of the 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.

We believe that Collective Worship provides opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to provide times of stillness and silence in body and mind
- 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 prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully and enjoy moments beyond the ordinary and everyday
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and '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
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

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.
- Be simple, including a range of experience offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective Worship follows the Liturgical seasons, current themes and situations and supports the topics covered in the Religious Education Curriculum.

Every Wednesday the children take it in turns to plan, resource and lead their own liturgy. Children are given a title for their liturgy which is linked to the current topic or the liturgical season. Planning sheets are provided, by the teacher, to aid the children. Each class has a file demonstrating these liturgies.

We come together as a school family to worship on a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon. All children come together each Tuesday for a teacher's themed assembly and on Thursday, for a story making links to God's Big Story heard on Tuesday.

We celebrate the Eucharist in the form of Mass every term as a whole school. Each class has an active part in planning and preparing for this worship. We also hold a family Mass once a term in one of our three linked Parishes.

Traditional prayers are said together at the beginning of the day, lunch time and the end of the day.

Families and the three Parishes are actively invited to join us in different forms of Collective Worship.

Recording

Examples of Collective worship are recorded, each class has their own class file and whole school examples can be found in the evidence file and on the school website.

Written by: Alison Townley

RE Coordinator

Written January 2016

Reviewed in February 2020

Reviewed January 2022.

Next review January 2023