



**ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER**  
Inspiring independent learners with Jesus by our side

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **1 AIMS**

To provide all the members of our school family - children, staff, parents and governors with the opportunity to join together to rejoice and to celebrate thereby nurturing the spiritual development of each individual.

### **2 PURPOSE**

Collective worship in our school is a means of:

- joining together to share and to celebrate all that is good and expressing thanks for it
- providing opportunities to share what is meaningful and significant to the individual including the difficulties and sorrows of life as well as the joys and successes
- giving time for silent reflection and 'inner space'
- illustrating a variety of forms of worship which contribute to spiritual development: eg art, music, story, poetry, singing etc
- providing a rich variety of means of expression eg drama, music, stories which give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level with teachers providing the necessary guidance rather than imposing their own interpretation
- inviting, never coercing children, who may be at different stages of spiritual development, to become involved in the expression, delivery and planning of prayer.

### **3 PLANNING**

Having established the purpose and focus of a particular act of worship attention will be given to its planning ie the people involved, place, seating and setting, time, display, music, lighting etc.

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 the children might consider what to look at, listen to and sing or say during a prayer session. At Key Stage 2 the children may wish to include additional activities of their choice.

## **4 WEEKLY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ORGANISATION**

### **MONDAYS**

At the start of the school week our Assembly reflects upon the "Liturgy of the Word" of Sunday's Mass. We set the Liturgical message from the Readings as the theme for our week.

### **TUESDAY**

*Laudate* (Hymn Practice). Learning hymns and songs which reflect the liturgical calendar, scripture and Christian values. Pupils are encouraged to sing in parts and use signing and actions to elevate their praise.

### **WEDNESDAYS**

Separate Key Stage assemblies linked to 'Statements to Live by', the Liturgical Year or to aspects of Social Catholic Teaching are held.

### **THURSDAYS**

These assemblies are primarily to celebrate the achievements of either whole classes, groups, teams or individuals. There is a strong emphasis on perseverance, resilience, effort and consideration for others.

### **FRIDAYS**

At the end of the week our pupil led Class Assemblies are a celebration of work in a particular class.

## **5 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM**

Classes pray together at the start of each day, before and after lunch and at the end of each day.

Teachers are encouraged to employ a variety of styles of prayer in their classrooms. These include:- traditional prayers ; quiet private prayer; written prayers or letters to God; informal or spontaneous prayer arising from discussion, events etc

As the children gain in maturity, they are helped towards experiencing short periods of meditation/reflection. They will become involved in the planning of classroom prayer by choosing religious objects to focus upon, music, stories, different themes etc depending on age.

Focal points for prayer both in the Classroom and around the School are provided where appropriate ie:-

Crucifix in each room and the main hall

Displays mounted with Liturgical themes or seasons

Quiet corners in classrooms

Crib at Christmas

Statues, pictures, candles etc.

Prayer Corner

## **6 LITURGY IN SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM**

As a School we celebrate Mass together on Holydays of Obligation and other special occasions eg Beginning of the Year, Leavers' Masses, St Bede's Feast Day etc. Attendance at Mass may be delayed until the children are at an appropriate age.

Liturgies are adapted appropriately but include the minimum requirements as outlined in the Directory of Masses for Children.

We are keen to provide opportunities for Class Masses (in Key Stage 2) and Class Assemblies/Liturgies with the Parish Priest (in Key Stage 1) and all parents and parishioners are most welcome to attend.

We join together in whole school celebrations to mark Advent and Christmas and to recognise the beginning of Lent and Holy Week.

## **7 THE SACRAMENTS**

Appropriate themes in "The Way, The Truth and The Life" lay foundations for a developing understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, The Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Children are led through an exploration of these Sacraments every year, so that their understanding and appreciation of them may grow.

In this way the work done in school throughout the years, supports all that is offered to children at the time of immediate preparation for the Sacramental Programme .

## **8 RESOURCES**

Resources are available in school to support staff in organising acts of Collective Worship. These include books, artifacts, CD's, CD Roms etc. Ideas for assemblies are stored in folders and on the staffroom bookshelf or in the hall cupboard.

## **9 INCLUSION**

The school's Mission Statement reflects that we aim to be a truly Catholic community with Gospel led values and therefore that we are committed to embracing those who for many reasons may be at risk of exclusion from that community. All the school's policies therefore reflect our desire to evolve inclusive practices and to create inclusive cultures.

Reviewed by the Staff – Autumn 2018  
Agreed by the Governors - Autumn 2018  
Review Date – October 2020