

OUR LADY OF LOURDES POLICY AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

Subject: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Issue Date: 05.09.16

Status: Non Statutory Policy.

To be reviewed by: FGB to determine.

Review Date: 05.09.18

To be ratified by: Headteacher

Mission Statement

At Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School we learn to live and love like Jesus, to help one another and treat everyone with kindness, respect, tolerance and understanding in a safe and caring environment.
God is always with us.

THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

'Every Catholic and religiously sponsored school should have a vibrant worship life, with ample opportunities for student liturgies, time of prayer and reflection and be suffused with religious symbols that nurture the faith identity of students'

Thomas Groome

We believe that Collective 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 worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways. Among these are:

- Prayer
- Assemblies (please see Appendix 1 for 'Ten Tips' on planning)
- Eucharist
- Sacraments
- Alternative Liturgies
- Classroom Prayer/Worship.

The dimensions of worship include:

- Praise
- Thanksgiving
- Repentance
- Intercessions

The types of acts of worship include:

- Head Teacher
- Deputy Headteacher
- Senior Management

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- Class led
- Visitor led
- Parent led

THE PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is so much more than a legal requirement but rather an integral part of school life, central to our Catholic tradition, underpinning the ethos of our school. We make a point of dedicating our day and work to God, who is at the heart of this school.

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.

AIMS

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To meet the Living God
- To consider spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own belief
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To promote and reinforce common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience by providing moments of reflection and prayer
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To encourage full, conscious, active participation and response
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

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PRINCIPLES

All Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- 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. Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Assemblies require careful planning if they are to be meaningful events. We cannot, however, ensure that these occasions will be a religious experience, that is the work of the Holy Spirit, but we can create the conditions and bring children to the threshold of worship.

DAILY ACT OF WORSHIP

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:

The daily Act of Worship will take place in class groups where there is a time for reflection and quiet prayer time

Wednesday

9.10am – Headteacher or SMT takes KS1 assembly on a Wednesday morning.

10.10am – Headteacher or Deputy Head takes KS2 assembly on a Wednesday morning.

Friday:

The Friday assembly will be prepared and presented by a designated class on a termly rota basis, to the whole school. Assemblies are based on the 'Come and See' curriculum, liturgical calendar or on a parable.

PRAYER

Prayer has a special place in our curriculum, fostering a special relationship with God.

Children are offered opportunities and language to talk to God, both in their own words and in the more formal language of the community to which they belong by their Baptism. There is a place for having a simple prayer structure associated with the day, i.e. morning prayer, grace at mealtimes and evening prayer and also for informal prayer. Children are encouraged to pray for special intentions, for sick or deceased members of their families or in response to requests made for prayers. Frequently, the children themselves request prayers for a particular intention.

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Children are also encouraged to compose their own prayers. This may be as part of their work in class or for one of the frequent liturgical celebrations held in school. Every class takes part in three prayers a day. These are the Morning Prayer, grace and end of day prayer. In addition, KS2 say the Angelus at 12 noon daily. Every year group has a suggested formal prayer list that the children become familiar with during the year.

MASSES AND SERVICES

- Each academic year begins with a Mass seeking God's blessing for the school, the staff, children, parents and governors.
- Children in Year 2 to Year 6 attend Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church at least once a term and specifically on Feast Days and Holy Days of Obligation e.g. The Feast of Our Lady. School Masses take place periodically.
- In May of each year, we have a special service in honour of Our Lady, when two of the First Communion candidates crown the statue. Parents are invited to this service each year.
- Each academic year ends with a Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church for the Year 6 leavers.

VOLUNTARY WORSHIP AND RETREATS

The school community often share in Parish Masses and services at significant times of the year:

- All pupils are invited to attend early morning Mass during Lent (6.30am) at Our Lady of Lourdes Church with parishioners and then share breakfast together in school.
- Our pupils are invited to support Parish celebrations throughout the year e.g. First Holy Communion, Stations of the Cross, All Souls, Benediction

Year 6 take part in a retreat day to Walsingham House in the Summer Term

Once a year, Staff come together on a dedicated retreat day to take time out to reflect and renew.

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

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for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill this requirement. We also 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 subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

POLICY EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored, evaluated (please see Appendix 2) and reviewed by the RE coordinators, Staff and Governors and updated every 2 years.

Approved on _____

Signed: _____

Headteacher

Signed: _____

Governor

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APPENDIX 1

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

TEN TIPS:

1. Favour a holistic approach (cross-curricular, and take account of the cultural richness of participants).
2. Decide on the appropriate strategies to present the assembly; prepare the venue creating a sense of occasion.
3. What will the focus be: artefact, candle, drape, poster, art display, symbol etc?
4. Maximise pupil involvement and ensure staff presence and participation.
5. Content should be Scripture based, to ensure good doctrine and sound teaching (use a translation appropriate for participants).
6. Include some intercessions that reflect current situations, the reality of pupils' lives. Such prayers can be educational in teaching us how to pray in a way that fosters extended love of neighbour.
7. Use various forms of prayer: formal, personal, reflective, liturgical.
8. Choose hymns that are God-centred and balance the participative and reflective.
9. Build into assembly a quiet moment/silence to allow God to speak, teach, draw and love us. It is a time as Cardinal Hume cites when two silences meet: the silence of God and the silence of the individual.
10. The assembly should last ten to twelve minutes.

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APPENDIX 2

SUGGESTED AREAS FOR EVALUATING THE PROVISION OF WORSHIP

1. INTRODUCTION

What are expectations/ Diocesan Requirements?

2. MISSION STATEMENT

Who compiled it?

When revisited and reviewed?

How is the Mission Statement owned and lived around school

3. ASSEMBLIES

Class

Whole school

Class worship

Time allocation (12 minutes in Primary schools)

Monitoring

What guidelines given to new staff?

4. MASSES

Whole school

Phase group

Chaplaincy provision

First Communion e.g. school/parish

5. RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Advent

Lent

Throughout the School year?

Sacramental preparation e.g. school/parish

Preparation for Rite

6. PRAYER

Formal prayer

Liturgical prayer

Reflective prayer

Meditation

Prayer focus in classrooms / hall

Are staff aware of Diocesan Guidelines and Handbook?

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7. HYMN PRACTICE

Frequency/ new hymns/links with Parish

8. CHRISTMAS / EASTER / PENTECOST CELEBRATION

9. LEAVERS MASS

School / Parish/Deanery based

10. RETREATS/ AWAY DAYS

For Staff and Governors

Children

Deanery

Parents

11. R.E. INSET

Should be annual?

12. RESOURCES

Bibles (age appropriate)

DVDs

Banners

Music

Crosses and crucifixes

Drapes (Liturgical colours)

13. DISPLAYS

14. ARTEFACTS

15. SCRIPTURE

Sunday preparation

Display around the school

Creative use of Scripture in worship and R.E.

Different translations

Wednesday Word

16. HOME/SCHOOL/PARISH?

17. GOVERNORS ROLE?