

Collective Worship Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

This statement on collective worship is to be read in conjunction with the mission statement, the school's aims and objectives and the school's Religious Education Handbook.

The statement reflects the opinions of the whole teaching staff and has full support from the governing body.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with him, made possible through the work, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We recognise that St Anne's Catholic Voluntary Academy has a statutory obligation to provide collective acts of worship.

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.

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.

3. AIMS

We endeavour to provide opportunities for the children to participate in celebrations, both in church and in school, as well as in the wider

community. The children will experience different elements of liturgy, such as, drama, music, song, dance, prayer, silence and reflection.

Collective worship will aim to challenge and enrich the religious experience of children and staff, both individually and communally and encourage a mature response. There will be opportunities for quiet reflection during assemblies or classroom worship.

We believe that our collective worship aims to provide opportunities to reflect on spiritual and moral issues, to explore own beliefs, experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The policy is implemented through various types of liturgical celebrations, some of which are sacramental. Other celebrations include 'Celebration' assemblies, class assemblies, other assemblies and classroom worship.

Objectives:

- During the school year, the children will experience celebrations in their class group, (through; whole school services/masses, classroom worship – both led by the children.) in school, (in assemblies and liturgies), in church, (Mass, Feast Days,)) and in the wider context as the opportunities arise.
- Parents, families and friends of the school are invited to share in some of our celebrations. For example, school Christmas and Easter productions, Masses and Services, May Procession and other sacramental celebrations.
- Opportunities for parishioners to come into school will be advertised in the parish newsletters

The school in the community:

Our school benefits from close relationships with our parish.

Children are given the opportunity to raise money for 'CAFOD' as well as other charity work.

Some of the Year 6 children, are members of the 'Mini Vinnies' (Primary school SVP). The group organise events in the school, such as contributions for the local foodbank Zink.

The planning, content and delivery and recording of Collective Worship:

Collective worship is planned using **Gather, Listen, Respond & Go Forth** as the basis for collective worship:

- Following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship.
- Involving consultation; with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to, changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- To develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than just participating or contributing.

When Collective Worship will take place:

- Prayers at the beginning and end of the day, take place in each class, every day.
- Prayers of thanks before and after meals.
- Monday morning – Whole school assembly takes place in the hall.
- Tuesday – hymn practice, praising God in song
- Wednesday - classroom collective worship.
- Thursday –
- Friday – Celebration assembly.

5. RESOURCES

There is a communal resource area for collective worship in the school. These resources include;

- Focus objects: hearts, pebbles, flickering LED Candles, pictures, cloths.
- Prayer books, hymn books, God's Story, Bible.

Each classroom has:

- CD player and a reflective Cd to play. (CDs are swapped with other classes to ensure some variety.)
- Michael Burland CD of music appropriate to the year group.
- Candles (Flickering LED lights for safety reasons)
- God's Story and the Church's Story are in each class (Relevant to the appropriate age group.)
- Various collective worship focus objects: heart, pebbles, lights, pictures, cloths.
- Crucifix

Prayer Bags:

During different times of the Church's liturgical year, there are Home/School links for collective worship.

Prayer bears are taken home by children on Fridays. This allows children to have some reflective, prayer time with their families. The children can choose to evidence their special time in a class book, by doing some of the suggested activities, sticking in a photograph or writing their own prayer and adding it to the book. The prayer bears are passed around the class so each child/family gets a turn to take it home.

6. POLICY MONITORING & REVIEW

This policy will be monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinators and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and governors every two years. The foundation governors in particular will play a most important role.