

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

**Collective Worship  
Policy**

**Our Mission Statement**

With Christ at the centre, we live, love and learn together, reaching out to all.  
**Together with Jesus we can do it!**



**Revised:** October 2023

**Date of Next Review:** October 2025

**Signed:** Mr Peter Bradley

**Role:** Chair of Curriculum and Standards

**Adopted by the Governing Body:** November 2023

### **The Nature of Collective Worship:**

We believe that Christian 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. It contributes greatly to our spiritual and moral development.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

*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.*

### **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 experience to which all can contribute to and from which all can gain.*

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

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- 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
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in Holy Family will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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.<sup>1</sup>

**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 ( children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2 );
- be simple

**Collective worship in our schools will be:**

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Collective Worship is timetabled each day. These timetables are reviewed on an annual basis

### **Children Planning Collective Worship**

The teacher should always prepare and lead most Acts of Collective Worship and be an excellent role model for children to emulate. The children will lead various parts of Collective Worship. For instance, they may read scripture or lead in prayer. But the facilitator will always be the teacher.

### **Resources**

Every classroom has a 'Collective Worship' box, with a variety of items which can be used during Collective Worship. Children may have access to this. The resources for this box will be built up on each year.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children from Year Two onwards. However there are occasions when younger children are invited when appropriate. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

### **The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

Mrs Catherine Davey

### **Review and Evaluation Policy**

School data and self-evaluation will include relevant information in its progress towards achieving its targets for Collective Worship. The evaluation process will serve the basis for planning programmes of action and targeting time, support and resources. The Senior Leadership Team and RE Co-ordinator will review this policy biennially. The review will be reported to the Governing Body.

**Signed:** K. Quigley

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