

The Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy



Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Our mission is to develop our children with active and creative minds,
a sense of understanding and compassion for others
and the courage to act on their Catholic beliefs.

In our school community we celebrate our faith and we work together
to achieve our personal potential by trying to live like Jesus and become
the person that he wants us to be

Ratified On:	December 2018
Review Date:	December 2020
Chair of Governor's signature:	Mrs R Burke
Headteacher's signature:	Mrs M.H.B.Williams

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Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.

What is Collective Worship?

Collective Worship is an expression of who we are and what we believe. It is part of our faith tradition, naming God's presence in our life. It is recognising that we are a worshipping community of faith, giving praise, glory, honour and thanks to God. Through Collective Worship in the academy our aim is to encourage us, as a community, to take time out of our busy and overcrowded lives to teach the children how to pray, how to build a strong relationship with God and to encourage and understand the liturgical language of prayer. Collective Worship is not just leading the children in a 'rhythm' of prayer.

Legal Requirements

As an academy, 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 academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship within different groups. (We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement). 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy

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 church.
- Those for whom the academy may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in our academy is an integral part of our academic life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our academy aims to provide an 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

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- 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 this academy will give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be short and appropriately paced.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences, offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. The children are reminded that Collective Worship is a period of calm reflection, a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. The children are encouraged to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen, reflect and meditate upon the teachings and the signs and symbols which are used to encourage their full participation in the prayers, readings, stories and hymns which they will hear.

In each class, the time of daily Collective Worship will vary according to the class timetable. Whole Academy Collective Worship takes place most Mondays at 9.10 a.m. in the main hall. This will be led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, RE Coordinator or other members of SLT and is mainly based on The Word of the Week which reflect the Liturgical Year.

Collective Worship forms part of our weekly Key Stage Celebration Assemblies that take place on Friday mornings and are led by all members of staff on a rota basis.

Each Year Group will prepare and lead a whole school Collective Worship at some point during the Academic year based upon their current Come and See topic or linked to important events within the Liturgical Year.

The Chaplaincy Team are well supported by our Chaplain and are able to plan and prepare their own Liturgies to share with their peers.

At the end of each "Come and See" topic, the class Collective Worship will be planned and evaluated by the children in each class mainly using the 'Let us Pray' materials and linked to the current topic. These gatherings may be slightly longer than the usual Collective Worship, and the children are given the opportunity to share and reflect on the knowledge gained.

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Each class prepares and shares a Collective Worship with parents after their retreat with our Chaplain.

The Chapel

The Chapel is open to children every day, during break times, on a rota basis. There are daily prayer and Worship groups led by the Chaplaincy Team from Year 2 to Year 6. The children learn to genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

How Collective Worship is planned

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, and 'Come and See' or 'Let us Pray' materials
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of Worship, with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community
- To develop pupil's skills enabling them to prepare, organise and lead Worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way
- Planning should follow a regular format i.e Gather, Word of God, Response to the Word, Going Forth (Mission)

Recording

Recording of Collective Worship takes place on the Liturgy planning sheet (which can be adapted to suit different age groups). Recording is evident through the displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and videos etc.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in the academy will highlight a special feast day or part of the academic year e.g beginning/end of an academic year etc. At other times, Mass may be said where the theme ties in with the Come and See topic.

We aim to celebrate Mass in school once a month during term times. Children from all Key Stages will be present (Foundation Stage children from Christmas onwards) and will participate at their own level. The children will take part in the preparation of the Mass by writing the prayers, reflecting on the readings prior to the Mass, helping to prepare the altar, setting up the hall etc.

In Key Stage 2 each class will be responsible for preparing and leading their Year group Mass to be celebrated with a priest within classroom smaller setting. Parents will be invited to join these Masses.

At times during the Academic year, Mass will be celebrated with other schools from Our Lady of Lourdes Trust.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation Services will be held for each year group within Key Stage 2. These will be led by our Chaplain and celebrated with our Parish Priest.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

- Children are free to worship in their class prayer corner/area whenever they wish
- Quiet reflection is held in classrooms during Advent and Lent
- All children are free to pray in our Chapel or at Callum's Spot.
- Year 6 children visit the Briars annually

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- Each class partakes in Retreat afternoons led by our school Chaplain.
- Children can take home prayer books, Advent and Lent bags to share with their families.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The academy's provision of Worship will be evaluated regularly to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading Worship. People attending Collective Worships (staff, governors, parents and children) will be asked at various intervals to evaluate them. Questionnaires will be used as part of a rolling programme to identify stakeholders' views (governors, parents, pupils and staff) and how provision may be improved.

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the School's Development Plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Liaison with the Parish Priest
- Liaison with the School Chaplain
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitude towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Primary RE Advisor and Nottingham Diocesan Centre.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities Statement

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, belief, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. The Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy is committed to creating a Christian climate which will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available to expand on this further.

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Review

We acknowledge that this policy and our understanding of learning, need to be reflective and open to new research in order for our teaching to be successful. The Headteacher and staff will review this policy during Autumn Term 2020. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Local Governing Body.