



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



December 2022

The Good Shepherd Primary Academy **Collective Worship Policy**

Mission Statement

“Loving Jesus in all we do.”

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. When we celebrate through collective worship we give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Collective worship offers all schools the chance to explore and understand the values at the heart of their ethos.

...Setting time aside in the school day for reflection provides everyone with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

CES: Why is Collective Worship important?

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 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 fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that liturgical prayer 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 included under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

At The Good Shepherd Academy, responsibility for Liturgical Prayer rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher and RE Coordinator.

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, within the Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of The Good Shepherd Academy

Worship in The Good Shepherd Academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the daily Catholic tradition.

Collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- 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;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at The Good Shepherd Academy aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 The Good Shepherd Academy 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.

Planning, content and celebration

At The Good Shepherd Academy collective worship themes are planned following the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates, for example Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week and The Harvest and they may be guided by the themes of a Jubilee year or the Bishop's Mission. All collective worship follows the same sequence: gather, Word, response and mission. A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Parish and parents are invited to participate in celebrations wherever possible.

The timetable of Collective Worship is below.

| Day | Session | Time/Length | Venue |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | Whole School Liturgical Prayer Mrs Toner and half termly the chaplaincy team work on a rota to deliver LP based on the school value and its links to scripture | 9.05am/ 30mins | Hall |
| Tuesday | KS1 and KS2 Liturgical Prayer led by the school chaplain and chaplaincy team this follows the theme established during the Monday LP at a more age-appropriate level – to challenge/support, as required. Or Caritas themed Liturgical Prayer planned by SLT/delivered by class teachers | 9.00am/2.45pm 20mins | Class or Outside Class |
| Wednesday | Worship Assembly Worship through singing prayers, singing in response to the wonder of God's love and awe of God's creation. | 2.45pm / 30mins | Hall |
| Thursday | Class based Liturgical Prayer Child led following the theme set out in the Liturgy Plan. Or Caritas themed Liturgical Prayer planned by SLT/delivered by class teachers | 20 mins 15mins | Class or Outside Class |
| Friday | Celebration Assembly – Whole School Community Assembly Missionary Medals are awarded Class teachers celebrate the achievements of the children, offering their good work and deeds to God in a collective act of worship. Parents of children receiving awards are warmly invited and attend in good numbers. | | |

Throughout the year, this timetable may change, for example, during Advent and Lent the school holds reflection days to highlight the extra importance of these key times in the Churches liturgical year.

Our School Chaplaincy Team take responsibility for our whole school Liturgical Prayer at least once every half term and support our Chaplain to deliver Key Stage Liturgical prayer every Thursday. They promote CAFOD projects e.g. Brighten up the Harvest and develop a greater understanding of The Good Shepherd Mission through the liturgies they lead.

During class based Liturgical Prayer, a small group of children lead a planned liturgical prayer based on an agreed theme. The planning of this worship takes place in the days prior to the Tuesday or Thursday on which it takes place. Children use the 'See, Hear, Think, Do' planning grid and are supported by the Let Us Pray resources. Like in all liturgies, the child-led liturgy follows the standard sequence: gather, Word, response, mission. After leading the liturgical prayer, the children keep a record of this in their class worship book (approximately every third session). Children participate in an evaluation session in order to create further depth and opportunities next time their turn to plan comes around. Roles and expectations of the children when planning collective worship

We follow the NCDYS Liturgical Prayer Progression document for child led liturgical prayer (Appendix 1). In summary, children should be able to:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| EYFS | Create a prayerful focus ready for the liturgy, choosing appropriate items to display (from a selection prepared by the teacher). |
| Key Stage 1 | Give clear reasons for the items they have chosen to display on the prayer space focus. Select an appropriate reading (from a selected set). Be involved in choosing the music Follow the 'gather, Word, response and mission' with support. Ideas may be brief and may require the facilitator to expand upon them. |
| Key Stage 2 | Plan a well sequenced liturgy, including all essential aspects. Develop greater creativity, particularly within the 'gather' and 'response' section, as they progress through KS2. Select meaningful biblical extracts, carefully linked to the theme. Consider and make links with the school's wider community and parish. Make links with current affairs and the Bishop's themes of encounter, discipleship and missionary discipleship wherever possible. |

Children should always be supported during the liturgical prayer planning process to ensure they achieve the desired level of depth and experience.

Staff prayer

Staff prayer takes place each Wednesday morning (8:20am), when all school staff members are encouraged to come together in prayer. Each week, a different member of staff is responsible for leading the prayer session. This is a special few moments in the school week where staff members are encouraged to develop their own faith and spirituality, no matter what their faith background. Through prayer, staff members take time to reflect upon aspects of home and school life and are reminded of how unique our school community are, nourished by God at the centre.

Recording

Class liturgical prayer takes place weekly and planning sheets are kept by the class teacher. More detailed evidence is recorded in class scrap books at least twice every half term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Liturgical prayer is monitored using the NCDYS monitoring form. Class based liturgical prayer is monitored throughout the year, more frequently upon request where teachers feel they would value support. Informal monitoring takes place in the Advent Term and scheduled monitoring takes place in the Lent Term. Class teachers regularly invite SLT members to share their class worship.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the current CSED/Action plan.

Resources

The Good Shepherd Academy Head Teacher and RE Coordinator have overall responsibility for the liturgical prayer resources. However, each class has a Liturgy

Box, which is accessible to staff members and children. Included in the class resources are liturgical cloths (green, white and purple) representing the colours of the liturgical year; crucifix, crosses, rosary beads, candles, pictures (e.g. images of Mary, the Holy Spirit, the Sacred Heart of Jesus...) and a variety of different resources to be used in collective worship (pebbles, chalk, mirrors etc.).

Children must have full access to a variety of resources and be encouraged to use resources from the indoor and outdoor environment when planning and leading collective worship, in order to promote awe and wonder.

The learning environment

“Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment.”

Rev M Stock, 2005

From the moment children, parents, members of our school community and friends / visitors come into our school, they are greeted with a focal point which reflects our school ethos and values. In each classroom and throughout the school, focal points will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos alive in our school, vividly reminding all who work, play and pray together here that we Love Jesus in all we do.

Retreats

Year 6 children visit The Briars Residential Youth Centre (Crich, Derbyshire) in the Summer term. Children recognise that they are growing emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically, and are reminded during this retreat that they can grow stronger with God in their heart. The children are given opportunities to deepen their faith and speak proudly about it, without fear of others' and peer pressure. Class 6 children are also encouraged to consider their faith as they prepare for transition to secondary school and benefit from the guidance of our chaplains who support them through this process.

Retreat days take place on a rolling programme throughout the year. Each class, from Nursery to Year 6, spend a half day with our school chaplain – Lucy Farrelly to develop spirituality, different prayer styles and provide opportunities for quiet reflection based on liturgical themes and Come and See topics, as set out in the school Liturgy Plan (appendix 3)

Other opportunities

We take every opportunity to seek chances to visit groups within the local community, in order to share prayers and offer Jesus' love and friendship beyond our school building. Some examples of this are:

Our EYFS and Y1 children put on a wonderful Christmas Nativity each year, telling the story of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is exceptionally well attended and a wonderful opportunity for our school and Parish community to gather together to celebrate the joy of His birth.

Children lead Stations of the Cross in the Church during Holy Week and parishioners

are invited to attend this service.

We regularly contribute to Sunday mass in our parish by taking responsibility for the liturgy of the word.

We sing for local groups in our parish e.g. Little Lambs & care homes

We produce videos at key times in the churches' year e.g. advent & Lent and these are displayed on the school and Church's website.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations are held of significant importance at The Good Shepherd Academy. School masses are held at the start of each term and to celebrate the end of each academic year. All Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated in school and members of our parish community are invited to attend. The whole school celebrates mass in Church at least termly – during Advent and at the end of the year. Year groups take their children to a weekday mass during the Lent Term.

Opportunities for children to plan and participate in school masses are maximised. Wherever possible, parents and members of the school and parish community are warmly invited.

Children in Year 3 will be supported through prayer and encouragement as they prepare and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Eucharist. Preparation classes for children and their parents take place in the Parish over a period of 9 months and are facilitated by Fr Phillip and members of the Parish Community. The Holy Communion Mass is well attended by staff from the school, supporting the pupils on their special day. When each child has celebrated this wonderful sacrament, we invite them and their families to celebrate mass again all together in school. Children relish the opportunity to wear their special clothes, receive Jesus again and share a meal of thanksgiving together with their friends.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Celine Toner (Head Teacher) and Serina Dougal (RE Coordinator) work closely together to ensure Collective Worship is of an outstanding standard at The Good Shepherd Academy. Responsibilities are outlined in Appendix 2.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Head Teacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years, as detailed below. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role in this.

Completed by: Celine Toner / Serina Dougal

Date: December 2022

Approved by Governors: 14th December 2022

To be reviewed: September 2024

Liturgical Prayer Progression

See separate document

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds 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 to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the governors of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Religious Education (David Quinn)

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Liturgical Prayer Planning Grid

See separate sheet