



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

*‘Aim High- Live life and live it
to the full.’*

Adapted from St. John 10:10

2019 – 2020

Collective Worship Policy for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School



We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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 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 collective worship is not designated time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of schools overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective worship in a Catholic school, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Collective worship takes into account 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

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to provide a warm, welcoming, happy and caring environment in which individuals can explore, express and develop their own personal relationship with God within the context of a worshipping community. Our faith is at the heart of all we do and the broad and balanced curriculum we provide. The school encourages and values all, the role played by all school staff, governors and parents and the wider community in supporting the spiritual, physical and educational growth of all our children. We aim to be a Gospel inspired community.





The Aims of Collective Worship at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School.

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 enrich religious experience.

To reinforce positive attitudes.

To participate fully.

To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.

To develop a common ethos and shared values.

To foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and action.

To grow in liturgical understanding and development.

To take time out 'to wonder at,' 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

To recognise and express the feeling and senses of beauty, wonder, pity, smallness, grandness, sadness, loss, peace, thoughtfulness, stillness and pride.

To place worship in the centre of the children's lives and in its rightful place in the school.

To include speakers from the wider community.

To be sensitive towards other faiths.

Places for Collective Worship.

Collective Worship can take place anywhere.

The school Hall – “Praise God in His Holy place.” (Psalm 150)



The classroom – “When two or three gather in my name I am there among them.” (M.18:20)



Outside – “Heaven and
(Roman Missal)

Earth are full of your glory.”



Church – “Praise God
150)



in His Holy place.” (Psalm

Classroom Worship

The class teacher or the children will lead acts of worship in the class at different times during the day. Teachers and children may choose their own themes. The theme may be to do with the Come and See topic or seasonal, topical, some national event, sporting triumph or tragedy which has taken place. The theme is simply a vehicle for exploring some aspect of universal experience, and allows all the members of the class to share for a few moments, ideas which may have a bearing on their own experience or life.

Use may be made of pictures, photographs, art work, stories, poems or natural artefacts. The list is unlimited!

Focus should be made on a specific item, a candle should be lit, music may be played while the children pray or listen or reflect.

Parents/carers will be encouraged to join the classes for collective worship throughout the year.

Examples can be found on the shared drive.



Pebbles

Artefacts

- A length of blue fabric
- A length of sand coloured fabric
- A transparent bowl
- Pebbles, shells driftwood etc

Words

Tide
Back and forth
to and fro
in and out
ebb and flow

The smooth pebbles on the beach begin as jagged, sharp stones; as the sea laps over them day by day, year by year, over and over again, they rub against other stones and become smooth and silky to the touch.
As you place a stone gently into the water, remember those who have touched your life today.

Prepare the children by:

- ❖ asking how they have changed since coming to school, eg grown taller, can run faster, can read and write etc.
- ❖ exploring how being at school has changed them in other ways, eg helped them to be better at sharing, enabled them to see things from other points of view etc.

Review with the children by:

- ❖ thinking of something that they have learnt from someone else in the class/school recently
- ❖ exploring the ways in which we all affect and influence each other when we live as part of a community.

Phase Assemblies

All teaching staff are encouraged to lead the weekly assembly but they must ensure that there is a clear distinction between the assembly and the collective worship elements. The focus can be linked to Come and See topics or related to the liturgical time of the year or seasonal, topical, some national event, sporting triumph or tragedy which has taken place. Visitors are welcome at the discretion of the Phase Leaders and SLT. Visitors often bring a new dimension and life to our celebrations.



Other Celebrations

Harvest- There is an assembly for all children to attend. The charities that are supported at this time are CAFOD, the homeless in Liverpool who are supported by the Sister's at Seel Street and the shoe box appeal.

Advent – The themes are: Stay Awake, Prepare, Rejoice and Wait.

The Infant children, in turns, take home “Mary and Joseph” and a book to write a reflection or prayer in. They are asked to think about providing comfort and support for people on long journeys, refugees and the homeless.

The Junior children, are provided with a weekly reflection during advent to take home and share with their families.

Christmas – all classes/year groups prepare an assembly or Nativity to which parents and carers are invited.

Lent/Easter – During Lent children organise fund raising events for the Nugent Care Society and Jospice. All classes/year groups prepare an assembly celebrating Holy Week to which parents and carers are invited.

Awe and Wonder – During their time at Blessed Sacrament, children are provided with a range of WOW experiences e.g. owls, chicks, husky dogs, science experiences, farm animals, growing activities. Evidence of Awe and Wonder can be found in children's books, our website and Earwig which reflect their experiences. These should include photographs, prayers, paintings and drawings, poems written by the children, reflections and responses from the pupils.

Holy Days – The children are given the Mass times in our parish. Whenever possible, feast days are celebrated at Mass with our parish family. There is a link to the parish website and newsletter on our Catholic Life page.

Corpus Christi – This is our schools feast day and traditionally we hold our Celebration Mass to celebrate the children having made their sacraments.

Sacraments – The parish catechists prepare the children and their families for Holy Communion with support from school. School staff prepare the children for Reconciliation. The school further supports the children and families by attending church with the children and by teaching the sacraments through "Come and See."

Leaver's Mass – Parents are invited to attend the Mass and it is followed by a celebration.

Masses – KS2 children celebrate Mass on a termly basis with their year group and in addition will gather to celebrate significant events in the school or Church calendar. KS1 children celebrate in school with a service led by the parish priest once per term.

Celebration of other cultures- as part of the wider curriculum.



Planning for Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be planned for, evaluated and recorded. Class teachers are provided with a purple file in which to keep their planning and this Collective Worship Policy. These will be monitored by the RE Team. At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary, the teachers plan with reference to the Liturgical seasons, Come and See, significant dates, the curriculum, sensitivity to the issues of the local community and the wider world. In planning our Collective Worship, we are mindful that taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It requires a response from those assembled.

Suggestions for Leading Collective Worship

Think of a total of five to ten minutes depending on the content and age of the children and should include some time for thinking/reflecting, sharing, listening, and time for stillness and silence.

Use a focus which the children will learn to recognise and respect such as the lighting of the candle, a vase of flowers, a picture, a piece of sculpture, a cross natural objects.

Use silence, through stilling exercises and guided meditation.

Keep the session simple and short and use some of the following;

A short passage of scripture (ALWAYS)

A picture, poster or slide

A prayer

A simple ritual

A hymn or song which the can join in

Music

Silence

Use music to begin and end

Invite children to reflect/evaluate on the content of the worship either individually or in small groups.

A well organised classroom act of worship may lead pupils into a quiet creative activity. Eg painting, writing

Recording

There is a folder on the shared drive containing the Collective Worship planning and copies of power points which have been prepared by staff for group gatherings. Each class teacher should keep a file containing their own planning and that of the children. Any major celebration photographs should be sent to Mr Mckenna to put on the website and shared on social media platforms. Both files will be monitored by the RE Team. The planning format for Collective worship can also be found on the shared drive. Children from Nursery to Year 6 are able to plan Collective Worship at an age appropriate level.

Nursery – set up the focus table and decide how to gather.

Reception, Year 1– prepare a full Collective Worship at least once a week.

Year 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – prepare full Collective worships at least twice a week.

Class teachers - prepare collective worship for all other times.

Creating the Environment for Prayer

At Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary we aim to create an environment that encourages prayer.

- Prayerful images
- Appropriate music
- Suitable lighting
- Comfortable posture
- Atmosphere of peacefulness
- Respectful attitudes

Focus Worship Table

Each classroom has a designated area for prayer. The focus table must contain the following; a cross, the word, a candle and a focus and the surrounding area should be uncluttered. Each class has a box containing cloths, a range of candles and pictures. Teachers are encouraged to also collect their own objects such as shells, pine cones, bark etc

Cloths

The colour of the cloth can be different for each liturgical season.

Purple – Advent and Lent

White – Christmas, Easter, special feast days

Gold – Special celebrations

Green – ordinary time. (Pentecost to Advent/After Christmas to Lent)

Red – Pentecost, Good Friday

Other objects

Flowers and plants- greenery is a reminder of God's beautiful world and a gift of creation

Sacred Images – cross, statue, pictures of Jesus, Mary etc

Interesting objects – variety of pebbles, shells etc

Meaningful pictures – pictures appropriate to the theme

Prayer or story/ poetry books – open on a page which reflects the topic being taught.

Oil burners or incense sticks – aromatic smells are relaxing for prayer

The list is endless! Children also like to bring in object for the focus table.

There is an extensive list of **traditional prayers** which should be taught.

These can be found in the RE File on the shared drive.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship will be monitored by the RE Team termly.

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds. A request should be put in writing to the Head Teacher.

Suggested Collective Worship Themes

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Friends/Getting to know you	The Epiphany/gifts	Jesus is risen alive/Rejoice
Dreams/Hopes/Values Aiming high.	Being still/trust/promises	What does Easter mean to me/the world?/Inspiration
Family/Different families/Rules	Followers/being a disciple	Who is the good shepherd?
Changing seasons	Celebrating difference	Ascension/Hope/Glory

Harvest/Autumn		
Rosary/Our Lady	Good and bad	Pentecost/Prayer/Holy Spirit/Good news
All Saints and all Souls	Preparing for Lent Self-sacrifice	Corpus Christi (School Feast day)
Remembrance/memories	Mercy of God Reconciliation/sorry	Father's Day Our Father Almighty
The cross /Religious symbols/Courage	New life/Good news/Lent	St Peter and St Paul
Advent 1/Stay Awake	Mothers/Our Lady (Mother's day)	Special Places Places of Pilgrimage
Advent 2/Prepare	Treasures/Awe and wonder/Living for God	Plans/Whats next?/Inspiration people
Advent 3/Rejoice/Wait	Thanksgiving	Neighbours/One world
Christmas/Love/Giving	The Greatest week. Holy week	Moving On

Guide to planning

Gather

Create a focal point for the prayer time using pieces of material, candles, flowers, a bible etc.

Send out invitations to this special time of prayer.

Begin with a procession of all those involved in leading the prayer time.

Take time over the Gathering to create an atmosphere of prayer.

Use a Gathering chant that can be repeated and built up, may be interspersed with short phrases from Scripture

Listen

Pause at different points during a reading to allow time for quiet contemplation

Use bite size pieces of scripture but provide thoughts for reflection in between.

Dramatise the readings.

Create a short structure of Listen & Respond that you can repeat to build a larger structure.

Use passages from God's Story where possible

Respond

Write a letter to God (and perhaps write how you think God might respond)

Draw a picture.

Invite people to take part in a symbolic action linked to the theme of the prayer time e.g. placing a stone at the foot of the cross, washing hands, sprinkling grain on a map of the world.

Use silence or reflective music.

Go Forth

Give people a symbol/memento to take away: E.g. stone, cross, prayer card

End with a final song/ hymn to accompany a procession out of school/church

Say a prayer

Give a suitable 'task' to remind the children of the theme e.g. to smile at children they don't know on the playground.

Special Days in the School Year

September

Date	Feast
September 3 rd	St Gregory the Great
September 4 th	St Cuthbert
September 8 th	Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary
September 13 th	St John Chrysostom
September 14 th	The Holy Cross
September 15 th	Our Lady of Sorrows
September 16 th	Ss Cornelius and Cyprian
September 20 th	St Andrew Kim Taegon and Companions
September 21 st	St Matthew

September 24 th	Our Lady of Ransom
September 27 th	St Vincent de Paul
September 28 th	St Wenceslaus
September 29 th	St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael - Archangels
September 30 th	St Jerome

October

October is dedicated to Our Lady because we celebrate the feast of

Our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th.

Teach the children how to use Rosary beads to count their prayers.

Older children should know the prayers used in the Rosary and the names of the Mysteries.

Date	Feast
1 st Friday in October	Cafod's Harvest Fast Day
October 1 st	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
October 2 nd	The Guardian Angels
October 4 th	St Francis of Assisi
October 7 th	Our Lady of the Rosary
October 12 th	St Wilfrid
October 13 th	Edward the Confessor
October 15 th	St Teresa of Avila
October 18 th	St Luke
October 23 rd	St Ethelflaeda
October 24 th	St Magloire
October 28 th	Ss Simon and Jude
October 30 th	Blessed Winchester Martyrs
October 31 st	Halloween, Vigil for All Saints Day.

November

November is our month for commemorating the dead.

Date	Feast
November 1 st	All Saints Day
November 2 nd	All Souls Day
November 3 rd	St Martin de Porres
November 3 rd	Blessed John Body (Andover)
November 4 th	St Charles Borromeo
November 9 th	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
November 10 th	St Leo the Great
November 11 th	Armistice Day

November 14 th	Blessed Hugh Faringdon and Companions
November 16 th	St Edmund of Abingdon
November 21 st	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 22 nd	St Cecilia
November 30 th	St Andrew, Apostle
Last Sunday in Ordinary time	Christ the King

December

Advent is a time of expectation for the second coming of Christ at the end of time and preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas.

Date	Feast
December 1 st	St Edmund Campion
December 3 rd	St Francis Xavier
December 6 th	St Nicholas
December 7 th	St Ambrose
December 8 th	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
December 10 th	St Swithun Wells
December 13 th	St Lucy
December 14 th	St John of the Cross
December 26 th	St Stephen
December 27 th	St John
December 28 th	Holy Innocents
December 29 th	St Thomas à Becket

Liturgically, the Christmas season extends to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Sunday after the Epiphany.

January

Date	Feast
January 6 th	Epiphany
Sunday after the Epiphany	Baptism of our Lord
January 13 th	St Kentigern
January 18 th - 25 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 25 th	Conversion of St Paul
January 26 th	Ss Timothy and Titus
January 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas
January 31 st	St John Bosco

February

Date	Feast
February 2 nd	Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
February 3 rd	St Blaise
February 11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes
February 14 th	Ss Cyril and Methodius
February 14 th	St Valentine
February 22 nd	Chair of St Peter

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and features in the second half of the Spring term. Prayer corners should now be very stark (e.g. no flowers) but with a focus to remind us that this is Lent (e.g. a cross of twigs, a crucifix etc)

March

Date	Feast
March 1 st	St David
March 17 th	St Patrick
March 19 th	St Joseph
March 25 th	The Annunciation

Easter - there should now be a sense of celebration and joy in the Resurrection. White and gold should be used as well as flowers, candles and banners and the word 'Alleluia' for decoration. Important days include Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

April

Date	Feast
April 19 th	St Alphege
April 21 st	St Anselm
April 23 rd	St George
April 25 th	St Mark
April 26 th	Blessed Robert Anderton and William Marsden
April 28 th	St Luis Marie de Montfort
April 29 th	St Catherine of Siena

May

Mary's Month

Date	Feast
May 1 st	St Joseph the Worker
May 3 rd	St Philip and St James
May 4 th	Blessed Martyrs of England and Wales
May 14 th	St Matthias
May 25 th	St Bede the Venerable
May 27 th	St Augustine of Canterbury
May 31 st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June

Important days include:

Trinity Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost),

The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Sacred Heart of Jesus (the Friday after the Second Sunday of Pentecost)

Date	Feast
June 5 th	St Boniface
June 9 th	St Columba
June 20 th	St Alban
June 22 nd	Ss John Fisher and Thomas More
June 24 th	Birth of St John the Baptist
June 29 th	Ss Peter and Paul

July

Date	Feast
July 11 th	St Benedict
July 23 rd	St Bridget of Sweden
July 26 th	Ss Joachim and Anne

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary School

Date:

Class:

Names of the children who have planned, led and selected the resources in the session:

Gather
Word
Response to the Word - Prayer/Symbolic Action
Going Forth
What the children thought....