

Holy Family
Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship
Policy

Approved July 2019

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HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission Statement and School Values

At Holy Family we grow, learn and succeed in the footsteps of Jesus.



1. Statement of Intent

'At Holy Family we grow, learn and succeed in the footsteps of Jesus.'

2. Introduction

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.

3. Legal Requirements

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

4. Aim

Collective Worship at Holy Family 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.'

5. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School

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 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 educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father, daily, in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer
- Singing

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening. 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.

6. Worship and Liturgy will take the form of:

Prayer

Children at Holy Family have a natural aptitude for prayer. They respond to joy, wonder, anger disappointment and elation to the world around them.

Children are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer:

Class prayers – These vary from Key Stages. Time is spent praying in the morning, before lunch (The Angelus), after lunch prayer and at the end of the day.

Traditional prayers – Glory be to the Father, Hail Mary and Our Father.

Repetitive Prayer (The Rosary) – Especially in the months of October, we hold a lunchtime session where children can say the Rosary together.

Litany/Bidding Prayers – Prayers with a repeated response e.g. pray for us, Thanks be to God, And with your Spirit.

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers, these prayers are included during assemblies and after lunch.

Gestures

Sign of the cross – Children understand that this is a prayer in itself.
Sign of peace

Signing to a variety of hymns

Hymns

Traditional and modern hymns are sung and are in keeping with the Liturgical cycle. Hymn practice takes place weekly and hymn meanings and spirituality are explained to the children and singing is used when appropriate.

7. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons in the Liturgical Calendar, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- with 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 always participating or contributing in a token way.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life e.g. 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2).
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of settings and in a variety of groupings in order to help personalize the experience.

Collective Worship takes place in the hall and classrooms. Each classroom has a designated worship focus area which may include a display; this is changed regularly either by the teacher or by the children. The children are initially guided by the teacher to create a prayer focus area but eventually are given the opportunity to select their own resources to create this space from the class liturgy box.

Liturgy box

The liturgy boxes contain the following:

White, purple, red, green cloths, cross, candles, stones and glass beads.

There is a planning board for Gather, Word, response and Mission and individual cards to enable the children to choose different ways of celebrating the liturgy. Word can be selected from the Bible or from the Word distributed by the Diocese. Word should be in relation to the Church calendar or Gospel for the relevant WTL unit.

Each class aims to celebrate a liturgy twice weekly.

There is a **reading** (Word) from the scriptures, time for reflection and prayers.

The Liturgies involve **action** (Response), shaking hands / holding hands / closing eyes / singing / praying. etc.

The children will be sent out from the liturgy with a **mission**, an experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

All staff have copies of the Wednesday Word and use this resource for class liturgies.

Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday - Whole School assembly (led by Headteacher) based on liturgical year and school themes

Tuesday - KS2 assembly (led by KS2 teachers) based on liturgical year or PHSE themes

Wednesday – FS2 and KS1 assembly (led by FS2 & KS1 teachers) based on liturgical year or PHSE themes

Thursday – Whole School Hymn Practice and class based Collective Worship

Friday – Whole School Celebration Assembly

8. Special times of the Year

Advent

The appropriate purple colour is used on worship tables and teachers are encouraged to display an Advent Wreath. The Nativity is dramatized in The Foundation Stage. KS1 children take part in Christmas Concert.

Lent

The appropriate purple colour is used on worship tables. The whole school makes an extra effort to raise money for a variety of charities. Years 3, 4 and 5 perform the Easter story for parents.

Prayer stations relating to the Stations of the Cross are put up around the school and children spend time at each station.

9. Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources – copies of the planner should be kept in the Religion teacher files.
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

10. Resources

In addition to the Liturgy boxes there is:

Quiet music CDs and an iPod are available.

Bibles, teacher's books and resources are in the Blossom Room. Additional resources are stored on the shared drive under Religion ➡ Collective Worship

Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 receive the Wednesday Word which is sent home and used as part of the pupil's planning of Collective Worship in class.

11. Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses throughout the year
- Class Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- As part of Retreat days

Children are encouraged to attend Mass on a Sunday throughout the year. Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation during Year 3.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.