



*"We are a Catholic community, living and learning in faith.  
Through the Gospel values of faith, hope, trust and love, we aim to recognise  
individuality and enable each other to fulfil our potential"*

## **St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

*St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding, child protection,  
and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members  
of the School and its community to demonstrably share this commitment.*

## **We aim to achieve our mission statement by:**

- Nurturing a love of learning
- Educating the whole person based on the belief that the human and divine are inseparable
- Educating all, especially those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged
- Developing positive and supportive relationships
- Valuing prayer, worship and faith development
- Respecting individuals
- Working in partnership with parents, the Parish and the wider community
- Celebrating the richness of our cultural diversity

## **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, thanks and praise to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship that has been made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

## **Legal Requirements**

St Cuthbert's complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single Act of Worship for all children, or separate acts of worship in school groups. We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

Worship in this School is more than just a legal requirement – it is an integral part of our School life and central to its Catholic tradition.

The Act of Worship is **not** designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

As a rule, Acts of Worship will take place on school premises. However, the Governing Body has the discretion to allow these to take place elsewhere on special occasions, for example, Church of the Assumption or St. John of Rochester.

Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher and RE Leader.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from Collective Worship. However, given its importance in a Catholic School, parents and prospective parents need to 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.

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

We hold 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 communities in our parish (Church of the Assumption and St. John of Rochester)
- those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- those from other Christian denominations – 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.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

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

- contemplate the mystery of God
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- respond to and celebrate life
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- enrich their religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding
- reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- reinforce positive attitudes
- to participate fully

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in our School will:

- give glory to God
- be a quality educational activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character, including aspects of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole person
- give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds, in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church, with reference to ‘The Directory of Masses for Children’ as a basis for our practice.

In order to do this, our celebrations are kept small wherever possible, to help children personalise the experience. We also keep them short and appropriately paced, bearing in mind that children's attention span lasts for an average of one minute per year of life! Celebrations are kept simple and include a range of experiences in various groupings.

## How Collective Worship is organised at St Cuthbert's

Acts of Collective Worship may take place at any time during the school day and should be approx 15-20 minutes in length.

### Focus

A variety of stimuli will be used which will involve the use of as many senses as possible. *Crucifix\**, candle (lit), flowers, natural items such as stones, rocks, or leaves; symbolic items such as bread or water; scented items such as candles, incense burners. (\* present at all Collective Worships)

### Content

The format for Collective Worship should include:

- **Gather:** how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc)
- **The Word:** The Word of God will be read from a Bible, it can be the Reading of the day, or a phrase/few lines from Scripture.
- **Respond:** The response to the Word may be some quiet reflection, a communal prayer, a response from the children or a ritual action e.g dance, music, drama, art, poetry.
- **Go Forth:** This gives the children something to hold on to from the experience of the Liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

### Groupings

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship at 9:00am led by Head Boy, Head Girl and the Headteacher (Gospel reading and/or Bible stories) or Class Liturgies
Tuesday	Phase 1 Collective Worship: Years 1 and 2. Year R join in the Spring Term. Phase 2 Collective Worship/Spiritual Journaling in class. Hymn Practise for whole school.
Wednesday	Phase 2 Collective Worship: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 led by children and staff. Phase 1 Collective Worship/Spiritual Journaling in class.
Thursday	Collective Worship/Spiritual Journaling in the class for all.
Friday	Celebration Act of Worship

## Annual Mass and Liturgy Schedule 2020 - 21

September	Deanery Mass for School Mass for beginning of school year in the School Hall
October	Harvest Festival Rosary prayer time in classrooms or in the Garden of Reflection
November	All Saints Day Mass in the School Hall (where possible) Remembrance Collective Worship in School Hall and Year 6 visit to the Remembrance Ceremony at St Jude's Church St Andrew's Day House Collective Worship in the School Hall
December	Nativities (Year R, 1 and Year 2) Advent Reflection (Years 3,4, 5 and 6)
March	Ash Wednesday Mass in the School Hall Easter Reflection (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) St David's Day House Collective Worship St Patrick's Day House Collective Worship St Cuthbert's Liturgy
April	St George's Day House Collective Worship
May	Rosary prayer time in classrooms or in the Garden of Reflection Year 3 children Holy Communion Masses (Local Churches) Going Forth Mass in the School Hall
June	Liturgy at Worth Abbey for Worship Leaders celebrating the Good Shepherd Appeal.
July	Year 6 Deanery Mass (St George's) End of academic year Mass (In the School Hall)

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**

December (Advent)

March (Lent)

## **Class Liturgies**

Each class will have the opportunity to lead one Class Liturgy throughout the year. This may be a topic chosen by the teacher or one, which reflects their current 'Come and See' topic. The class liturgy is also linked with the children's in class projects which link to the wider curriculum. Parents and carers, along with the rest of the year groups, are invited in to share the celebration of class liturgies with the children.

The Captains and Vice Captains of the School Houses will be invited to lead a Collective Worship about their Saint around the time of their Saint's feast day.

A special liturgy will be held to mark the Feast Day of St Cuthbert. This will be led by our Head Girl and Head Boy.

## **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure linked to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See' topic, significant dates, Saints' feasts and the curriculum
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- with reference to our School's aims and policies
- to develop in children the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship themselves, rather than participating or contributing in a token way.

## **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded on a liturgy planner, which may refer to themes, leaders, resources, children. Children's contributions, prayers, reflections, and photographs may be kept. Scripts, photographs and observations of all Collective Worship can be found in the RE Leader's file. Class Liturgies may be recorded using the proforma in Appendix 3.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the spiritual needs of all children and whether children are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The RE Leader, Headteacher and the Governing Body will observe Collective Worship throughout the year.

## **Resources**

See Appendix 1

## **Eucharistic Celebrations**

Eucharistic celebrations in our School will highlight a special occasion such as a Saint's day, Harvest Festival, or may relate to another significant celebration in the life of our School. All children are included in the celebration according to the stage of their faith development and are encouraged to participate. This may be as a reader, server, and member of the choir, as part of the offertory procession or part of the congregation. Reference will be made to the Church's '**Directory of Masses for Children**' as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist, will be the norm.

At Phase 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with some ritual and a variety of activities
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass, for example, 'The Lord be with you – and with your spirit'
- the liturgy of the word: age-appropriate stories from the Old and New Testaments, particularly the Gospels
- age-appropriate hymns and songs

At Phase 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Eucharistic prayer and/or the Communion Rites
- age-appropriate hymns and songs.

## **Year Three Holy Communion**

This programme is led by the church and the families celebrate this collectively from January to June. Staff members are invited to the various masses to celebrate this Sacrament with the children.

## **Appendix 1 - Resources**

Books, posters, drapes and other religious artefacts are stored within classroom cupboards. Teachers may also have a selection of books in their own classrooms. Children may be invited to bring in artefacts/ items of beauty to act as visual stimuli during classroom worship.

All items for celebrating the Eucharist are kept in both, the Hall and our Studio, including sacred vessels, communion wine, altar breads, altar linen. Hard copies of the Masses are kept in the staffroom and on computer (RE Leader). A small selection of music tapes and CDs are stored in the cupboard containing the music system in the hall. The lectionary is in the School Hall together with book of Eucharistic prayer.

The projector is used to project words for hymns and operated by children. The lectern in the School Hall reflects the colour of the Church's season and contains a copy of the lectionary opened at the reading for the day.



## **Appendix 2 The Role of the RE Leader for Collective Worship**

The RE Leader will be responsible (with support from school and parishes) for the following:

- to establish/lead a Collective Worship planning group, which might include the Headteacher, Spiritual Council, a Governor and the Parish Priest
- formulating a policy for Collective Worship
- ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship, which may at times form part of the school development plan
- ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of children
- ensuring that the religious and educational needs of all who participate are considered and that it is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory of Masses With Children'
- organising themes for worship
- assisting the Headteacher and Governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- observing, on occasions, Acts of Collective Worship led by other members of staff / children
- informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in 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 Headteacher and Governors regarding matters of development and/or concern
- acting as a consultant to colleagues
- encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- informing newly-appointed colleagues of our School policy regarding Collective Worship
- communicating with Parents, Governors and Parish Community
- liaison with Parish Priests
- liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre


### **Professional Development/ on-going formation**

- leading and organising in-service training and on-going formation for Collective Worship
- attending appropriate in-service training courses and reporting back
- keeping up to date by personal reading

### **Resources**

- evaluation of existing resources
- developing resources available for Collective Worship, including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, posters and new/relevant books

## Appendix 3 - Collective Worship Planning

Date:	
Class	
<b>Gather</b>	
Song/ Music (as you light candle)	
Opening prayer – written/ spontaneous/ from class prayer book	
Introduction of Theme - Good morning and welcome to class x Liturgy on ...	
<b>Word- scripture</b>	
Scripture passage / Power point / Film / Guided Meditation/ Poem/ Story	
<b>Response to the Word - Prayer/Symbolic Action</b>	
What did you like best in the story? Why did <u>.....</u> ? What were the most important words? What does this story mean to us today? How does this affect the way we behave? etc	
<b>Go Forth - Mission</b>	
Closing prayer and a Mission to complete.	
<b>What the children thought...</b>	
'Pupil Voice'	
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