

**The Federation of  
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning &  
St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor RC Primary Schools**



*“Living, loving and learning together,  
with our eyes focused on Jesus.”*

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Head Teacher: Mrs L Keenan  
Chair of Governors: Mrs C Purcell

Date of Implementation: November 2016

Date of Review: November 2017

# Reviewed in line with the Diocesan Model Policy for Collective Worship, September 2016

## Mission Statement

### **'Living, loving and learning together, with our eyes focused on Jesus'**

To create within our Catholic school an extension of Christian traditional family values based on the gospels, which actively encourages full participation of our children, staff, governors and parents in living out these values as potential is developed.

To promote daily self-discipline within a loving, caring and forgiving framework.

To provide, within the framework of the National Curriculum, an education which strives to attain the highest educational standards whilst being a living example of Gospel values.

To utilise school life to provide a holistic education for all pupils to widen and deepen themselves as confident and secure people which values the individual and develops their feeling of self-worth alongside their variety of talents

## The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'<sup>1</sup>

## Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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 worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 Come and See RE curriculum.

## The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of The Federation of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning and St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor, RC Primary Schools

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in The Federation of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning and St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor, RC Primary Schools 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 Federation of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning and St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor, RC Primary Schools 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.<sup>2</sup> Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

## **Planning, content and celebration**

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Staff prayers are said whenever staff gather together, for example at staff meetings. During key liturgical seasons (Lent and Advent) staff strive to meet daily for prayer.

## **Leading collective worship**

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will oversee the planning and leading of collective worship. As the Head Teacher works between sites, the Deputy Head Teacher will deliver whole school Collective Worship unless otherwise agreed. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age. Class teachers will lead and encourage their classes (STJ) or houses (OLQM) to lead whole school collective worship following a prescribed timetable.

## **Recording**

Class Collective Worship is recorded in individual class files.

Whole school collective worship is recorded in House Books (OLQM) or Whole School collective Worship Record (STJ).

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Feedback is shared with individual staff and good practice is shared at staff meetings.

Following monitoring, ongoing training needs will be identified and followed up on.

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

### **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'<sup>3</sup>

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school 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.

### **Retreats**

Retreats are used at least once a term as part of the response to the current topic studied in class. This may take the various forms such as; walking, overnight, labyrinth, sacred space, pilgrimage.

### **Other opportunities**

Whole school Mass takes place over the year to mark specific events such as Welcome to the new school year and Thanksgiving for the year that has been. Feast Day Masses are also attended where possible.

Children are able to attend parish Mass on occasion and this is planned for each class across the year.

As a Federation we all meet to celebrate Mass at the start of each Federation day.

Following the Sacramental Preparation Programme, children preparing for First Sacraments have the opportunity to participate in a monthly liturgy within the Parish Mass.

Children also participate in community events such as Carol Services and Tree Lighting Services which are led by the local Churches Together group.

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

Mrs Yates (OLQM) and Mrs Curtis (STJ) are the co-ordinators for Collective Worship, (Appendix 2).

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinators and Head Teacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. Mrs Quinn is the RE Link Governor. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Year Group:

**Appendix 1 - Monitoring of Collective Worship**



Focus	Comments
<p><b>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the children been involved in the planning?</li> <li>• Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Structure (If Liturgy)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified?</li> <li>• How did children gather?</li> <li>• Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently?</li> <li>• How did children respond to the Word?</li> <li>• Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child or adult led?</li> <li>• Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically?</li> <li>• Was it a prayerful experience?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Creativity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How creative was the Act of Worship?</li> <li>• Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Prayer Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>ICT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Agreed areas for development</b></p>	

Name:

Observer:

Date:

*Copy to be given to teacher & RE Coordinator*

## Appendix 2

### **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 and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from 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 headteacher 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 and headteacher 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 Education

#### **Professional development/Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising inservice 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

*[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]*