

# Collective Worship Policy 2019

By	Review period	Method
Full Governing board	Bi annual	Meeting

Ownership: RE Leaders and Head of School

## Revision History

Review	Changes	Next review date
June 2018	Organisational changes	July 2019
February 2019 & November 2019	Organisational Changes	May 2020

*“Aspire not to have more, but to be more,”*

*Saint Oscar Romero*

*Education associated with Romero aims to be of the highest possible quality. The formation of the young people in our care is expressed in the values of respect, compassion and justice. Our schools are communities of faith where we hope to empower young people to take up the challenge to be more in their daily lives. To take action for social and environmental justice, and to create a more just and compassionate world.*

## **Introduction & Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all students. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all students, or separate acts of worship in school groups. We believe that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement; Catholic worship is where all members of the community participate in thought and word and deed for the greater good of our Catholic community, in all uses of the meaning of the word “Catholic”. We also 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.

Collective worship is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is concerned with the revelation of God’s presence so that praise, honor and thanksgiving may be given to Him. We aim to strengthen this Eucharistic community, which is called together to give witness to Jesus Christ. Collective worship is the community’s response to God, which invites us to enter into a loving relationship with Him, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective worship enables all members of the community to:

- Worship God and contemplate His mysteries
- Consider and celebrate our Christian values
- Develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- Unite our worshipping Eucharistic community
- Develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Develop a sense of belonging and a sense of community
- To foster and nurture relationships
- Grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding
- Develop the experience and skills of prayer
- Reflect upon our own individual faith journeys
- Extend our Christian understanding of scripture and applying to events in our British and international society.

## **Principles**

Collective worship aims to be memorable and enjoyable. It is designed to actively engage students. It is resourced and well planned with the promotion of Christian values been at the heart of worship. It is also flexible, able to respond to special occasions and unforeseen events e.g. a time of disaster or of

celebration. It should be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants. It should be clear in its liturgical focus and varied in its delivery. It should relate to the age, ability and cultural background of students.

We promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. Christian values are embedded in our school and in our worship and we teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

We recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students and this must be taken into account in our approach to collective worship.



## Appendix1 Collective Worship in St Joseph's

### Monitoring

By	Review period	Method
Full Governing body	Bi-Annual	Meeting

Ownership: Chaplaincy team

### Revision History

Review	Changes	Next review date
Refresh to reflect changes in chaplaincy		July 2019

## Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy is to reflect on how worship is an integral part of College life, central to the Catholic Tradition and aligns with the school motto 'Laus Deo Semper' – Praise God Always.

The College offers an education with a solid foundation of Christian values. We expect the very best from each and every student and seek to be a community where all are valued. The College motto, Laus Deo Semper (praise to God always), underpins all relationships in the College. We praise God by finding the best in others and treating each person with dignity as a child of God.

The policy supports this vision as a community and ensures that all within it develop their personal relationship with God. The College provides many opportunities, both formal and informal, for private prayer and collective worship.

In this College, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Head of School.

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

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 College may be their first and only experience of Church
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds who are part of our wider community, whether they are British or of other nationality.

### **Organisation**

All students are informed about the opportunities that are available to them, to learn about and from collective worship in all lessons particularly RE, tutor time and assemblies. They are also encouraged to consider how they can take an active role in collective worship.

Currently daily prayers are offered at the beginning of every lesson and in tutor groups lead by students in accordance with the prayer theme. On a weekly basis the staff briefing opens with a prayer and reflection led by different members of staff. There is a weekly year group assembly with the College prayer theme and a mass is celebrated regularly. Staff meetings and also all examinations begin with a prayer or reflection.

At the beginning of each month there is a prayer group for students, staff and governors. During the year there are special liturgies, services and masses. Students and staff are also involved in outreach projects for example with CAFOD. Awareness of Fairtrade issues is promoted through regular events and activities. The Fairtrade franchise continues to be successful and products are sold in the College canteen. St. Joseph's continue to work for social and community cohesion through work with local and international agencies.

Spiritual growth is encouraged for both staff and students through retreat days at St. Cassian's retreat centre and CPD. The College Chaplaincy team leads one assembly per term, e.g. Refugee Week, Fairtrade fortnight to name but a few.

St Joseph's PSHE programme is another avenue where the collective worship within the College is nurtured and explored. Scheduled citizenship lessons cover respectful and beneficial relationships where the Gospel values are permeated and central to our teachings.

### **Chaplaincy Opportunities**

Students and staff are invited:

- To participate in various campaigns and be involved in Justice and Peace issues.
- To take roles in delivering College Assemblies with prayer.
- To avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation when the clergy are available.
- To plan, prepare and participate in a Class Mass or Class Liturgy at least once a year where staff and parents are also invited.
- To participate in prayer group.
- To serve our outreach centres in our local, national and global community through fundraising and generosity.
- Student production of a prayer booklet for daily worship at the start of each day.
- To be a member of our chaplaincy team and advise and participate on collective opportunities.

- To write articles in our College newsletter and prepare power points for our plasma screens, enabling them to reflect on their spiritual experiences.
- To become a member of our College's Fairtrade Franchise, advocating and promoting Fairtrade in order to create a world in which all are treated equally.
- To attend a retreat to St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury
- To participate in events that are run by our Diocese – (e.g. Diocesan Secondary Schools Mass/Pilgrimage).
- Staff and governors are invited to participate in a monthly prayer group and lead weekly staff reflection at our College.

## **Right of withdrawal**

The College expects all students to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during that time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act.

However, the College welcomes all members of the college in collective worship regardless of faith, *“for where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I with them” Matt 18:20*. Therefore all actions in the College day reflect that God is present in all that we do.

## **Resources**

Chaplaincy and collective worship budgets are well funded and supported by Leadership Group. All chaplaincy and collective worship dates for 2018-2019 are included on the College Website.

The local community are welcome to attend mass and liturgies. Prayer themes and liturgies can also be found on the College Website and Moodle. A prayer booklet (prayers are written by students) for daily prayer is given to each tutor at the beginning of each academic year and a prayer sheet is given to teachers for the start of every lesson. Training and a guide to working in a Catholic school is delivered to all new members of staff.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

It is the role of a named College governor with responsibility for Religious Education and collective worship to regularly review this policy and to assess its implementation and effectiveness.

The policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in collaboration with the Leadership Group and Head of RE. It is evaluated and reviewed on a yearly cycle. Governors review reports on the prayer life of the school on a regular basis. This forms part of the Head of School's report to Governors.

The following will be monitored as regards collective worship:

- Is it educational, relevant and meaningful?
- Does everyone feel comfortable and included?
- Does it reflect the multi-faith nature of our community and the world?
- Are the resources used appropriate and of good quality?
- Are tutors supported in delivering collective worship in the classroom?

- How will students be involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of acts of worship?
- How will the school ensure that there is balance and variety in the styles of collective worship?
- Will INSET time be used to share skills for the meaningful delivery of collective worship?
- If collective worship is carried out within assembly time, how will the 'business' and 'worship' elements of the assembly be made distinct?
- Will visitors help to deliver collective worship?
- Are governors actively welcomed to attend collective worship?
- How are 'withdrawn' students catered for during collective worship?
- Are both staff and students asked to complete an evaluation of the school's provision of collective worship?
- How are these findings recorded and how will they be used to further develop the quality of collective worship in the school?

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship:**

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- Formulating a written policy in consultation with stakeholders
- Ensuring there is an improvement plan for collective worship
- Ensuring that collective worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of students
- Ensuring that collective worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings
- Organising themes for worship
- Assisting the governors and Head of School in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community
- Parish priests
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship



## Our Mission:

# Learn, Grow, Love and Live

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School  
we learn about ourselves and about the world,

We grow in faith,  
we act with kindness, generosity and love  
to ourselves and others.

We live life to the full and have a future full of hope.

### **The Nature of Collective Worship<sup>1</sup>**

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.<sup>1</sup>

### **Rationale**

This school will comply with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship and in accordance with the Trust Deed as a school within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton.

School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation and values of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purpose of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day<sup>2</sup>. All of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly of a Christian character.

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.

## **Aims**

The Act of Collective Worship will be in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church and will:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and love of God
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying as well as using community prayers
- Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and affirming the Christian values of the school
- Reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Recognise the value and worth of each individual in God's world
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Foster concern for others within the school and wider world
- Respond to the worship offered

## **Framework**

Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians and suitable arrangements should be made for these pupils. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

The Head of School will keep a record of all Acts of Collective Worship undertaken in a whole school assembly.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from practising Catholic families.<sup>2</sup>

All staff at Holy Cross are aware of Looked After Children in their classes. We ensure that they receive all possible support and encouragement as pupils who need special provision and positive discrimination, whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.

## **Organisation**

- Whole school, class or group worship may take place during the school day.
- School worship is held during assemblies on the following days, and is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly:
  - Tuesday (Whole School Gospel based)
  - Wednesday (Whole School Hymn practice)
  - Friday (Whole School Celebration of learning)
- Daily collective worship is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the class or group of pupils and it will be held primarily in the classroom but it may be held anywhere within the school and at any time during the school day.
- Each class should use the online resource Ten:Ten for daily collective worship with older children in Key Stage 2 preparing and leading the Acts of Worship.
- Worship is resourced through a collection of artefacts, books, bibles and prayer books.
- Each classroom will have a crucifix displayed which can be the focus for prayer.
- Each classroom will have an R.E. display and table which will reflect the theme of the moment. The class display colours should be in line with the Liturgical calendar.

- Each class has a prayer book with children's own prayers.
- Worship will take account of personal issues, local issues, national and international issues and the church's calendar.
- Visitors will be invited into school to lead worship.
- Mass will be celebrated in school either as a whole school event or as a class or year celebration.
- Penitential services will assist in personal reflection and growth.
- The Easter Liturgy will include events around the Passion of Christ and will be a focus for worship.

### **Right of withdrawal<sup>2</sup>**

Holy Cross expects all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during that time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act.

However, the school welcomes all members of the school in collective worship regardless of faith, *"for where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I with them"* Matt 18:20. Therefore all actions in the school day reflect that God is present in all that we do.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Worship will be monitored by the Governors, Head of School and the R.E. Coordinator.

<sup>1</sup> It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> 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 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.