

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School

We learn to love everyone as Jesus loves us



Collective Worship Policy

The two disciples... went after Jesus. Jesus turned, saw them following him and asked,

"What are you looking for?"

They answered, "Where do you live Rabbi?"

"Come and see," he answered.

(Taken from John 1)

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, 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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body, after consultation with the head teacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our Lady's

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

The Aims of Collective Worship

- 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 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'.

Skills

We aim to develop the skills and attitudes of:

- Reverence
- Respect
- Contemplation
- Reflection
- Interpretation
- Empathy
- Christian Meditation

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- 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.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small, wherever possible or appropriate, to help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts, in any one activity, for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins, for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins, for Key Stage 2);

Be simple, including a range of experience offered, in a wide variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Whole school Collective Worship takes place on Monday at 9.00am. and Collective Worship on Fridays at 9.00am, with a weekly open invitation to family and parish members. Parents/carers are also invited to class collective worship during the school year.

On Wednesday, Collective Worship is timetabled for key stage groupings:

- EYFS/KS1 – Wednesday 9.00am
- KS2 – Thursday 8.50am

On Tuesday and Thursday, Collective Worship takes place in class settings.
(From time to time it will be necessary to alter the days, depending on the school diary)

Worship

Worship is seen as an essential part of Religious experience and is therefore an integral part of our school day. We aim to actively involve children in ways which are suited to their age and stage of personal, social and religious development. Worship may take a variety of forms:

- Whole School Masses
- Rejoice Celebrations
- Class Assemblies
- Class Liturgies/Masses
- Reconciliation Services
- An experience on residential visits
- In the school prayer garden and prayer spaces.

In all of our liturgies we try to make use of artefacts and visual aids which contribute to a prayerful, reflective atmosphere.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Throughout the school year, the Eucharist will be celebrated in whole school group, Key Stage 2 children will celebrate the Eucharist in class groupings, along with family and friends. Eucharistic celebrations involving the whole school community along with the parish community are an important part of our collective worship celebrations. It will highlight special times in the Church's cycle, and celebrations in the life of the school. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration, as other acts of school worship. Therefore, opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure, with reference to The Church's seasons, 'Come and See' significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all Acts of Worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and 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

The format for Collective Worship in our school will be:

- **Prepare** – content that meets the needs of those gathered, an appropriate focus, resources, accommodation
- **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- **Listen** – every Act of Worship will centre on an appropriate Scripture reading; read from God's Story, the Good News Bible or scripture readings linked to the Global dimensions.
- **Respond** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.)
We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- **Go Forth** – Giving children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy, that they can take into their daily lives.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a Collective Worship planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Power points which are kept in the school computer files
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- Class learning journals which will be passed up with the class as they move through the school

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year, the school's provision of Collective 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.

Resources

A variety of resources are kept in class, the Resource Classroom and in the hall. For a complete list, please see RE co-ordinator.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors, in particular, will play a most important role.

Signed:

Date: May 2020 Review: May 2023