St. Peter's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Agreed: May 2024 Review Date: May 2026

Mission Statement

This policy has been written in accordance with our school's Mission Statement:



The Nature of Collective Worship

In line with our mission statement, 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.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

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. 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 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. Worship at St. Peter's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic ethos of our school.

Aims of Collective Worship

At St. Peter's, we believe that the collective worship in our school aims to provide the 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 develop the skills of:
    - Reverence
    - Contemplation
    - Reflection
    - Interpretation
    - Empathy
    - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles of Collective Worship

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.
- Celebrations will:
    - Be short and appropriately paced
    - Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

- Be led by various members of our school community, including SLT, teachers, and children
- Be actively shared with both parents and governors through invitation
- Be focused around scripture

Format of Collective Worship

The timetable of our collective worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Gospel Assembly, led by the Head teacher. This theme is based on the Gospel reading from the weekend.
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship – led by Spiritual Councilors or class teachers. This is linked to the Gospel reading from the previous weekend, or scripture linked to our school values
Wednesday	KS1 joint collective worship, led by class teachers KS2 – Class based collective worship, led by class teachers
Thursday	KS1 Class based worship, led by class teacher KS2– Collective Worship, led by class teachers
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly, led by SLT. Includes "Head teacher's Award", a reflection of the week's challenge based upon the Gospel and school values as well as a celebration of birthdays and other achievements.

In addition, daily prayers are said in each class at the start and end of the day, as well as before and after lunch.

Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship
- involving consultation all appropriate parties and 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.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, light candles, icons etc.)
- **Word** – every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible.
- **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 the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Special Liturgies and Masses

School masses and special liturgies are held regularly throughout the year at the beginning and end of each term, as well as at significant times of the liturgical year. These are arranged in consultation with our Parish Priest, Father Jack.

In June, our whole school celebrates the feast day of our school patron saint, St. Peter by attending Mass at our Parish Church.

A Leavers' Mass is held at the end of each academic year to celebrate those members of our community who will be leaving us in July.

In addition, each class/phase celebrates mass or leads a liturgy linked to the liturgical year each term where parents are invited to attend.

In the autumn term, these include:

- UKS2 Grandparent's Mass
- LKS2 Rosary Liturgy
- KS1 Harvest Liturgy
- KS1 Nativities
- KS2 Carol Service

In the spring term, these include:

- Year 5 and 6 Class Masses
- LKS2 Lenten Liturgy
- Year 5 Way of the Cross Liturgy

In the summer term, these include:

- KS1 Pentecost Liturgy
- Years 4 and 5 Class Masses
- Year 3 Class Liturgy

Resources

Resources are provided to all staff to aid with planning of liturgies. Resources such as bibles and planning books are kept in the RE cupboard in the school library. Candles, coloured clothes and statues are kept with the head teacher. Within each classroom, children have access to coloured cloths, CDs, candles and a variety of other artefacts.

Music and planning documents are available for staff and children in appropriate sections of the school server.

SEND

Class teachers have a responsibility to ensure that every child in their class is included and can participate in acts of collective worship to the best of their abilities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school's provision of worship is evaluated by SLT, the RE Subject Leader and governors to consider whether it meets the needs of all children and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Role of the Subject leader

The role of the Collective Worship Leader includes:

- Formulating a written 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 pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

In addition to this, it is the RE Subject Leader's role to:

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance of Acts of Worship
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Leading and organizing in-service training for Collective Worship
- Evaluating existing resources regularly
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Subject Leader, together with the governors and is evaluated and reviewed every two years.