



All Saints Catholic High School

Collective Worship Policy

"We will provide a Christian Education for all pupils based on the teachings of Jesus and the Spirit of the Gospels. The whole life of the school will be determined by the Gospel Values of Love and Justice. We will always value and care for all members of the All Saints Community according to their needs, and will affirm and nurture the development of all"

School Mission Statement

Date Reviewed: January 2023

Next Review Date: January 2024

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to outline the way All Saints RC High School community engage in the prayer life of the universal Church. The policy is split into the following sections:

1. Theological Foundations of Collective Worship
2. Statutory Obligations
3. The Nature of Collective Worship
4. The Place of Collective Worship in the life of our School
5. The Aims of Collective Worship
6. Principles of Collective Worship
 - a. Roles and responsibilities for Collective Worship:
 - b. Director of Catholic Life
 - c. Senior Leadership Team
 - d. Head of Religious Education
 - e. Progress Leaders
 - f. Form Tutors
7. Monitoring of Collective Worship
8. Sequencing of Collective Worship

Theological Foundations of Collective Worship

The Apostle Paul affirmed the significance of prayer, and wrote in one of the epistles, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states prayer and the Christian life are inseparable. (CCC 2744). It is the life of prayer that places us in relationship with God (CCC 2565).

Prayer, in all its expressions, is thus a means of communicating with and listening to the Divine in our lives. Collective Worship is held in high esteem in All Saints RC High School and is central to our Mission as a Catholic School.

Statutory Obligations

All Saints RC High School acknowledges the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. Collective Worship generally takes place during the designated form time/assembly, yet an act of Collective Worship can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, for example, a whole school Liturgy/Mass; or separate acts of worship in school groups, such as Year Groups/RE Classes.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the Headteacher has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

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 structure

The Nature of Collective Worship

At All Saints RC High School 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Central to our understanding of Collective Worship is our desire to live out our Mission Statements core message to embrace the Gospel values of Love and Justice. To this end Collective Worship will give all members of the community the opportunity to grow in love of God and to reflect on what justice means to them, the school and the Church.

The Place of Collective Worship in the life of our School

At All Saints RC High Collective Worship is far more than a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of the school and to the entire communities' moral and spiritual development. Collective worship is an important part of All Saints RC High School as a Catholic school with a distinctive Catholic Ethos. It is an area of our school which is not just paid 'lip service' to. Collective Worship in all its expressions is an integral part of our school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Collective Worship in All Saints RC High School 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.

Collective Worship in our context is an:

- Inclusive;
- Formative;
- Active;
- Contemplative;

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 pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To engage in the inner life of the spiritual journey
- To contemplate the Liturgical Year and engage in the seasons and rhythms of the Church
- 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.'

Principles of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in All Saints RC High School is based on the following core practices:

1. Reverence
2. Witness
3. Proclaiming
4. Response

- Reverence - at the beginning of each act of worship students and staff will be invited to be still and enter into a moment of silence so they are prepared to speak and listen to God.
- Witness - each act of worship will begin and end with the sign of the cross in acknowledgement of the Triune nature of God and joining All Saints to the universal Church through this sign of faith. The following formula is prayed at the end of each moment of prayer 'Our Lady Queen of All Saints: Pray for Us.'
- Proclaiming - all members of the school community will have the opportunity to proclaim through the leading of worship and reading scripture.
- Response - prayers, scripture will be linked to the theme of the Collective Worship allowing those present to articulate an individual and collective response to the moment of prayer.

All Acts of Collective Worship in All Saints RC High will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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.

Children will be encouraged to participate fully in the Liturgical life of the school in various ways:

- Individually, as a group or whole school
- Acts of Worship led by the Head of School, or members of staff
- Whole School Liturgy celebrating Liturgical feasts led by individual classes
- Class prayers led by the teacher or children
- Class Act of worship led by teacher or children
- Inviting guest speakers to join in acts of worship e.g. CAFOD, Food bank.
- Through Stories/Role play/Art
- Prayer Assembly
- Hymn Practise
- Celebration Assembly - Children's achievements
- One day retreats in Year 7 & 8
- Residential retreats in Years 7 - 12
- Year 7 Mass of Welcome
- Lourdes Pilgrimage Years 9 & 10
- Liturgies for: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Feasts of: All Souls, All Saints, St John Bosco.

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Occasionally recorded (for classes to view at different times)
- Monitored - through 'Collective Worship Celebrations'
- Evaluated

Roles and responsibilities for Collective Worship:

Head Teacher

- Act as the icon of Christ as the spiritual leader of the school
- Line manage the Director of Catholic Life
- Report to Governors on all aspects of Collective Worship.
- Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the school.
- Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through 'Collective Worship 'Celebrations'.

Senior Leadership Team

Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the school.
Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through 'Collective Worship 'Celebrations'.
Identify staff who require additional bespoke CPD on Collective Worship.

Director of Catholic Life

- Formulate the whole school Collective Worship Policy in line the Prayer and Liturgy Directory of the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Report to Governors on all aspects of Catholic Life & Collective Worship via 'Headteacher's Report to Governors'.
- Report to local Clergy on all aspects of Catholic Life & Collective Worship via 'Clergy Meetings':
 - September'
 - January;
 - April.
- Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the school.
- Provide whole school and 'bespoke' CPD. Whole school CPD on Collective Worship will take place:
 - September Inset Day 1;
 - October Inset Day 3 'Mission and Ethos Day';
 - January Staff Briefing.
 - Bespoke CPD takes place at various times throughout the year.
- Induct new members of staff into the whole school Collective Worship Policy.
- Quality Assure Collective Worship Resources.
- Create whole school monitoring and evaluate documents for the quality assurance and celebration of Collective Worship.
- Formulate the Section 48 CSED section on Collective Worship.
- Represent the school at Archdiocese meetings/Inset/CPD on Collective Worship.
- Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through "Collective Worship 'Celebrations'".
- Create and regularly update schools 'Prayer Journal'.
- Plan and lead a whole/year group/class experiences Liturgy as per-Liturgical Year.

- Plan and lead all aspects of the school retreat and pilgrimage programme.

Head of Religious Education

- Create and disseminate weekly Collective Worship resources to all staff.
- Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across the school.
- Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through 'Collective Worship 'Celebrations'.
- Identify staff who require additional bespoke CPD on Collective Worship.
- Contribute to the Section 48 CSED section on Collective Worship.

Progress Leaders

- Model best practice through regularly leading Collective Worship across their Year Group.
- Observe and evaluate Collective Worship through 'Celebrations of Collective Worship'.
- Identify staff who require additional bespoke CPD on Collective Worship.

Form Tutors

- Deliver daily acts of Collective Worship in line with the whole school Collective Worship Policy.
- Attend all CPD relating to Collective Worship.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The quality of Collective Worship at All Saints RC High is celebrated at various stages of the school year through 'Collective Worship 'Celebrations'. During these periods SLT, Director of Catholic Life and Progress Leaders attend Form Time & Assembly experiences of Collective Worship. Fig 1 below is completed and feedback is given to staff. Those who require further formation are referred to the Director of Catholic Life. The process is a celebration of the gifts and talents our community have in planning and delivering Collective Worship and is no way a punitive process.

Fig 1: 'Collective Worship 'Celebration Pro-Forma'

Observer:		Observing:	
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Form:		Date:	
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	Yes	No
Could the following be observed:		
Pupils invited to be still for a moment?		
Was the Sign of the Cross made?		
Was a prayer or reflection on the board? Was it read/reflected upon?		
Were students attentive and respectful?		
Were students invited to read or lead the moment of prayer?		
Did the act of worship end with 'Our Lady Queen All Saints Pray for Us'?		

Areas to celebrate:	
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Points to develop:	
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Sequencing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is sequenced in such a way as to offer a wide range of prayer experiences in form time Collective Worship, assemblies, liturgies, retreats and pilgrimage.

Year Group	Forms of Prayer & Worship
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Singing hymns - Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age - Attending Liturgy - Eucharist - Year 7 Mass of Welcome - Retreat - Service of Reconciliation
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still for an extended period of time - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Singing hymns - Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age - Attending Liturgy - Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation - Retreat - Service of Reconciliation
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still for an extended period of time leading to more contemplative experiences of prayer - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Singing hymns - Responding to scripture at a level appropriate to their age - Retreat - Pilgrimage - Eucharist
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still and experiencing contemplative prayer - Praying the Rosary - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives - Singing hymns - Retreat - Pilgrimage - Leading drama & dance in Liturgy
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still and experiencing contemplative prayer - Listening to scripture

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading from scripture - Reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives - Singing hymns - Reflecting on the place of scripture in the life of the Church and their own lives - Singing hymn - Leading drama & dance in Liturgy
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Attending Liturgy - Retreat
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making the Sign of the Cross - Being still - Listening to scripture - Reading from scripture - Attending Liturgy - Retreat