



Approved by:
Board of Governors - 5th December 2019

Introduction

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. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time 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 Headteacher.

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.
- We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age.

This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Pupils are invited to pray at the beginning of every lesson, moreover, the school motto, 'Laborare est Orare', explains how work and study may be offered prayerfully for the glory of God.

Parents are invited to Collective Worship events taking place inside and outside the school provided space allows. Every effort is made to include and accommodate parents' attendance at school Masses.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 that 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 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.

Planning

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

Once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Eucharist

The Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of Christian life and, through the re-enactment of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, is the highest form of prayer that we can make. It enables us to live the full life that Christ wants; His Body and Blood give life to the soul. Offering Mass is the perfect way to bring the community together, in love, to receive spiritual nourishment through hearing God's word and receiving the Eucharist.

Mass is celebrated throughout the school year. Twice a month it is celebrated in school during lunchtime on Tuesdays. It is also celebrated to mark the beginning and end of the school year, and on many other occasions throughout the school year to mark important events, or milestones in the life of this worshipping community.