



## THE FEDERATION OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

#### Our Mission Statement

***As the family of Jesus, we learn and love together.***

#### AIMS AND PURPOSE

At St Mary's Schools School, all children will be introduced to the worship of God and the Liturgy of His Word on an increasing scale as the children progress through the school. We will build upon the children's previous experiences with the Catholic Spirit of the School Mission Statement, "As the family of Jesus, we learn and love together." as the focal point. The staff and Governors should recognise that each child will have a different background with regards to the worship of God.

The aims and purpose of the Collective Worship at St Mary's Schools are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God in an atmosphere of joy, happiness and friendliness;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to develop the capacity to listen, to forgive and to ask forgiveness;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to express gratitude;
- to act together as a Christian community;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values such as respect for others, truth, forgiveness and justice;
- to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

#### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship may involve all members of the school or a class coming together and participating in an act of worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

## Collective Worship Policy

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the wider community.

### **ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The daily acts of collective worship will be for the whole school. On the days when there is not an assembly, collective worship takes place in class.

Monday	-	Whole School	-	Gospel Assembly
Wednesday	-	Lower School	-	Phase Collective Worship
Friday	-	Upper School	-	Phase Collective Worship

All assemblies are led by members of staff, pupils and visitors.

Assembly themes are taken from the *Come and See*, as well as *Roots* and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Harvest, Christmas and Easter Assemblies are central whole school celebrations for our school family.

We also have an assembly on Friday. The main focus of this assembly is to celebrate the achievements and learning of the children during the week. This assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to some of our Friday assemblies, particularly when their child receives an award e.g. smiles certificate and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

### **PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective Worship should be inclusive. It should:

- Be pupil centered, related to the pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concern
- Acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants and match the needs of pupils
- Foster a sense of community

Collective Worship should be educational. It should:

- Be a learning experience
- Be related to pupils own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

## Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship should be spiritual. It should:

- Be time to be still and reflect, and be made special
- Make pupils feel calm, relaxed and secure
- Include a variety of words, music and images
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

Collective Worship should offer:

- A focus point
- Time for reflection
- Communal prayers
- Private prayer
- Scriptural reference
- Music/dance/mime/singing

Children should be encouraged to participate in all areas of preparation and delivery.