



St Nicholas Catholic Academy

'Our Catholic school is a diverse, nurturing and dynamic community which is faithful to Jesus, welcoming to all and provides a learning environment where everyone can succeed'.

Collective Worship Policy

2022-24

St Nicholas Catholic Academy is a member of:



Transforming children's lives through a world-class Catholic education.

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Registered offices: Floor 3 Regus, No 1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP

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Mission Statement

'Our Catholic school is a diverse, nurturing and dynamic community which is faithful to Jesus, welcoming to all and provides a learning environment where everyone can succeed'.

Here, individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child-centred curriculum, which develops independent learning. Therefore, the implementation of our collective worship policy plays an essential role in enabling us to strive towards this mission for all the children in our care.

The Nature of Collective Worship:

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school name 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:

At St Nicholas, we celebrate a daily act of worship. We acknowledge this a legal requirement. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and carers need to be 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 structured. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can either be 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 present, 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.

As a rule, Collective Worship will take place on school premises. However, the Governing Body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. Church, open-air (i.e. Cenotaph).

In this school, as with any School, the 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 follow the Archdiocesan guidance on Collective Worship in our school (see appendix for the guidance from the Archdiocese).

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 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:

At St Nicholas we believe that our spiritual life will be alive and meaningful when it has a direct effect upon our daily life. We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To provide times of stillness and silence in body and mind
- 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 and enjoy moments beyond the ordinary and everyday
- To make time out to "wonder at, and give thanks for God's creations", "to come to terms with" and "to give worth to".

Principles:

All acts of Worship in this school will:

- raise our mind and heart to God, giving glory to Him
- celebrate the presence of God in our life and school community
- 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 (ie. 1 minute for each year of life, 5-6 minutes for Key Stage 1 and 7-10mins for Key Stage 2)
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- seek to involve learners in preparation and leadership.

Organisation:

We come together as a school family to worship and celebrate together every Friday morning. Each Phase also worships together once a week. All other collective worships take place as a class. At the end of each *Come and See* topic, classes celebrate through *Rejoice* in an act of Collective Worship.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, Religious Education themes studied, significant dates and the curriculum. 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

Collective worship is planned using resources that are appropriate to the interests, age, background and ability of learners. An appropriate atmosphere is set where children are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer.

Possible themes for 2022-23

Autumn Term – 1st half

Week 1 – New Beginnings
 Week 2 -Family
 Week 3-Friendship
 Week 4-Rules
 Week 5-Autumn/Harvest
 Week 6-Hopes/Dreams
 Week 7-Belonging
 Week 8-Sadness/Loss

Autumn Term Themes – 2nd half

Week 9-Patron Saints
 Week 10-Remembrance
 Week 11-Love
 Week 12– Advent
 Week 13-Hope
 Week 14 -Gifts/giving
 Week 15 –Christmas

Spring Term 1st Half

Week 1-Community
 Week 2-Celebrations
 Week 3-Growing
 Week 4-Good/Bad
 Week 5-Trust & Promises
 Week 6-Eucharist

Spring Term 2nd Half

Week 7-Lent
 Week 8-Saying Sorry
 Week 9-Hope
 Week 10-Being Thankful
 Week 11–Holy Week/Easter

Summer Term – 1st Half

Week 1-Peace
 Week 2-Spring/New Life
 Week 3-Special Things
 Week 4-Difference
 Week 5-Patience
 Week 6-Choices
 Week 7-Forgiveness/Reconciliation

Summer Term Themes – 2nd Half

Week 8-Being Fair
 Week 9-Neighbours
 Week 10-Creation
 Week 11-Memories
 Week 12-Achievements
 Week 13–Saying Goodbye

Recording:

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc. stored on the school network and in scrapbooks / floor books.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. It will also consider whether Collective Worship truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources:

These are stored in each year group and, centrally, in the R.E. cupboard. Resources also include artefacts of other world faiths (e.g. Judaism and Islam), which are also centrally stored.

Eucharist:

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. Children who do not receive Eucharist will receive a blessing from the chaplain.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- The whole school will also take part in Masses at the Cathedral and in the Crypt
- Children will be encouraged to participate in Sunday Masses throughout the year

The role and responsibilities of the Collective Worship co-ordinator:

The role of the Collective Worship lead includes:

- formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship (included in the SED and school AIP).
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of learners.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the "Directory on Children's Masses"
- Organising themes for Collective Worship.
- Assisting the Governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities regarding Collective Worship.

Communication:

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of acts of

Collective Worship

- Reporting to and consulting with the Governors and Headteacher regards matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing and supporting newly appointed colleagues of the school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Education Centre (LACE)

Professional development / ongoing formation:

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for collective worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up-to-date by personal reading and researching

Policy Monitoring and Review:

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship /RE co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors annually.

Updated September 2022

To be reviewed September 2024

Signed: _____(Chair of Governors)

_____(Headteacher)

Collective Worship Guidance



ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP PLANNER

THEME:

DATE:

Preparation:

When, where, who, what? What resources will I need?
Create focus. Send invitations.

Gathering:

How will we begin / enter – to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Use a 'gathering chant', come in procession.

Listen:

Reading from scriptures. Pause at times for quiet contemplation.
Dramatise the readings / Use power point?

Respond:

What do participants do? Quiet reflection, formal / informal prayer / respond to bidding prayers. Place stone at foot of cross etc.

Go Forth:

What will I do to help those present take the message away with them – prayer card, picture, common prayer, action etc.

Helping Children to plan:

What will you put on the focus table?

Gather

- What music might you play?
- How will you arrange the children?
- Will you light the candle(s)?
- Can you find an appropriate picture / poster / artefact? – explain it.



Listen

- Who will read?
- What Scripture will you read?
- Will you act out the reading?
- Will you use a Power Point presentation?

Respond

- How will you help your friends to reflect on what they have read?
- Will you say prayers that need a response?
- Who will lead the prayers?

Go Forth

- What do you want your friends to take away from this Act of Worship to remember its message?

- 1 Reflect quietly
- 2 Participate in periods of reflection in response to a given stimulus
- 3 Show understanding of the importance of stillness and quiet during times of reflection and prayer
- 4 Demonstrate an appreciation of the elements needed for reflection and contemplation or prayer (places, times, foci, stimuli)
- 5 Explore how different situations are conducive to reflection and contemplation or prayer
- 6 Discern how different forms of reflection and contemplation or prayer can be important in people's lives

Journeying in reflection and contemplation

- 7 Express creatively, linguistically or through other media, how reflection and contemplation can give people insights into their own lives and their relationships with God
 - 8 Reflect and analyse with others different views people hold on the worth of reflection and contemplation or prayer
- EP Reflect quietly

