

Corpus Christi Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Corpus Christi is a friendly school which endeavours to create a family atmosphere. All members of staff strive to make pupils feel welcome, secure and highly valued. In developing this caring atmosphere, we are committed to creating a Christian educational environment which is specifically Roman Catholic.

We aim to ensure that the curriculum provided is delivered sympathetically to meet the needs of each individual child; enabling growth in understanding and the acquisition of those skills, attitudes and values necessary for life.

We endeavour to make prayer, worship and liturgy real educational experiences for all members of our school community; enabling everyone to develop within their own faith journey as they travel onwards through life, outwards to others and inwards to God.

The Nature of Collective Worship

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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'¹

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 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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Corpus Christi School

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

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in Corpus Christi School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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

All acts of worship in Corpus Christi School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- 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.² Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Staff meet to pray together every Friday morning before school starts. This is led by the school chaplain.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Timetable for whole school Liturgy

School Mass – 1 per term - (Parents/Parish invited)

Service of Reconciliation – Advent and Lent - (Parents/Parish invited)

Whole School Liturgy every Monday morning

Key Stage One Collective Worship every Tuesday morning – based on Statements to Live By

Key Stage 2 Collective Worship every Wednesday afternoon – based on Statements to Live By

Upper Key Stage 2 – Termly Eucharistic service held in classrooms or church - (Parents/Parish invited)

Lower Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 Termly Liturgy of the Word held in classrooms. - (Parents/Parish invited)

Classroom Collective Worship every day – variety of styles

(Liturgy, Spiritual journals, Silence/Reflection Praying Together (book) Teacher led and children led Liturgy groups take turns to plan and lead.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in

RE books for end of topic Liturgy – RESPOND sheet (KS2)

+ Liturgy planners KS1 and KS2 (see attached)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitored by Head teacher and Collective Worship Coordinator. Recorded on Monitoring sheet and kept in Monitoring file

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform DSEF.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'³

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Resources

Variety of cloths and artefacts, candles, books, images, posters.

Kept in Staff room for access by all staff and children (with supervision)

Monitored and maintained by Collective Worship Coordinator.

Retreats

3 day Retreat to Holy Island for Year 6

Year 4 Retreat during Advent to Youth Village

Staff Retreat to Minsteracres

Staff twilight reflection at St. Antony's Priory

Staff day of Reflection to St Antony's Priory

Eucharist

Termly Mass and opportunities throughout the year to attend morning Eucharistic service e.g. In Lent followed by Stations of the Cross.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs S Taylor

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Policy Reviewed April 2021

Year Group:

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:

Focus	Comments
<p>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the children been involved in the planning? Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 	
<p>Structure (If Liturgy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? How did children gather? Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? How did children respond to the Word? Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 	
<p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child or adult led? Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 	
<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? Was it a prayerful experience? 	
<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How creative was the Act of Worship? Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 	
<p>Prayer Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
<p>ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
<p>Agreed areas for development</p>	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- 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 for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

End of Phase Expectations in Liturgy Preparation and Leadership

	EYFS	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2
Focal Area	Adult lays liturgical cloth, with bible, cross/crucifix and candle plus any other artefact. Children assist and may choose objects to add to focus area and say why.	Children are taught how to set up focal area and what to put on it so that they can do the whole thing themselves by the end of Year 2	Children are able to set up the focal area mostly independently and dress it in a prayerful respectful way (sometimes as part to of the gathering) "We bring a because	Children demonstrate independence with all aspects of liturgy planning. They can complete their planners independently and are confident and creative with setting up focal area without adult support
Music	Adult chooses music. Reflective or suitable gathering music and suitable mission music.	Children are given a limited choice of music to choose from reflection music and hymns.	Children choose any music relevant to the theme mostly independently	Children choose music independently and explain their choices
Gather	Children choose way to gather from a selection, music, bell, quiet time, procession, sign of the cross.	Children choose from a choice given by the adult- e.g. silence, sign of the cross/putting candles on focal area/procession/opening prayer	With support children arrange seating arrangement - Children choose way to gather from cards or their own ideas - mostly independently	Children demonstrate independence and confidence with different seating and gathering arrangements - they are able to explain their choices.
Word	Adult chooses and proclaims a very short piece of Scripture appropriate to the theme.	Adult chooses Scripture and help children to understand why and how it is linked to the theme.	Children choose the Scripture from a limited selection linked to the theme(Come and See topic/liturgical season/feast day This can be proclaimed by children where appropriate	Once they know the theme - children display confidence with choosing relevant scripture and explain reasons for their choices
Respond	Pass something around e.g. cross/pebble/handshake/ Say a prayer as they do/moment of silence	Teacher guides children to choose a way of responding that is appropriate to the theme.	Children with support choose a way to respond and are able to explain their choice	Children display complete independence with choosing a way to respond. They include moments of reflection.
Mission	Adult gives children a message to take away or sing a suitable mission song	Teacher explains the message of the liturgy and so discusses with children what would be a suitable way to respond.	Children show that they have thought how to 'send forth' from the liturgy with an appropriate act or gesture	Children display complete independence and creativity in choosing a mission linked to the theme.