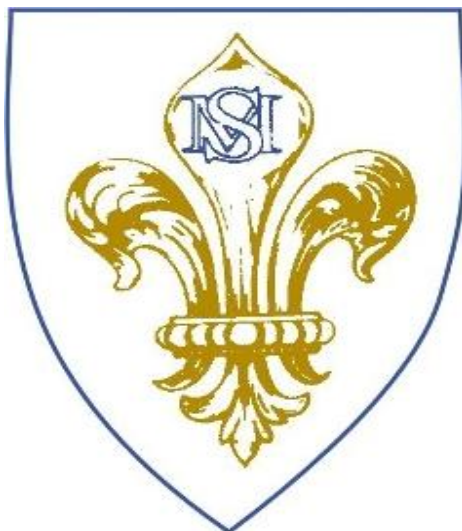


St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Part of The Christus Catholic Trust



Collective Worship Policy

Respect Ourselves, Respect Others,
Respect our World, Love God

This school is committed to safe guarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment

Policy Name: Collective Worship Policy		
Reviewer: V McBrown	Reviewed Date: July 2026	Date of next review: July 2028

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Respect Ourselves, Respect Others, Respect our World, Love God

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective 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

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Mary's School

Worship 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.

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Mary's 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 at St Mary's 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 the structure of the Church's liturgical year, with reference to the Religious Education Directory, the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, 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 of these celebrations.

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

The staff team take part in prayer alongside the children, modelling appropriate behaviours and actions.

As a collective the staff worship as part of each INSET day and staff meetings begin with a prayer.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Day	Collective Worship	Led by
Monday	Liturgical Worship – KS2 and KS1/EYFS in Hall	Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Key Stage 2 Collective Worship in Hall	KS2 teachers (rota)
	Key Stage 1/EYFS Mark 10 Mission in classrooms	KS1/EYFS Teachers
Wednesday	Musical Liturgy in Hall	Headteacher/Music Lead
	Wednesday Word to all families	
Thursday	Classes attend 9.15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea on rota	Fr. Anthony
	Key Stage 1 Collective Worship in Hall	KS1 teachers (rota)
	Key Stage 2 Mark 10 Mission in classrooms	KS2 Teachers
Friday	Friday Celebration	All teachers (rota)

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will model planning and leading collective worship. The class teachers will also lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored on a termly basis as part of the school improvement cycle. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to improve provision.

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 are an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

Y6 have an annual retreat to Walsingham House where they deepen their understanding of how they are loved by God and are unique in His image. Staff retreats are planned for key times during the liturgical year.

Other opportunities

Children regularly attend Mass at our Lady Star of the Sea church and welcome Father Anthony into school where he conducts Collective Worship with the children. Fr. Anthony also administers the Sacrament of Reconciliation to those who've made their First Holy Communion.

Advent and Lent prayer services are led by the Faith Council in the school chapel to which parents and parishioners are invited.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Lead 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.

The RE lead at St Mary's is also the leader of Collective Worship in our school. Their roles and responsibilities are as follows.

- 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 provided in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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 inservice 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

Appendix 1



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Planner

Year group:	Date:	Teacher:
Our theme is:		
How will prepare our sacred space?		
How will we gather?		
What scripture will we listen to?		
In what format might this be?		
What will we say/sing?		
What will we do?		
What will we take away and remember?		
Go Forth...		