



Collective Worship

1 Purpose

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. Therefore, we aim to implement our mission statement, "Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus" through thought, word and deed.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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 (CW) and assembly are distinct activities and may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but there will always be an opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual development.

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 CW rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher.

2 Collective Worship in the life of the School

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. We endorse the belief that CW 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.

AIMS: We believe that CW in our school provides opportunities for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- respond to and celebrate life
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- enrich religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding and development
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate fully
- take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

3 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.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- provide each person with the opportunity for personal response
- be short and appropriately paced, ie 6-10 mins for KS 1 and 8-12 mins for KS 2
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

4 Planning and Content: Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Here I Am', significant dates for our school and the curriculum;
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies;
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community;
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- special themes
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word.

Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- special themes
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

The Eucharist: Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step-by-step approach. In Key Stage 1, therefore, the "Liturgy of the Word" will be introduced before the whole Eucharistic celebration.

TIMETABLE: Each day CW takes place in class or in the following groups:

Monday:	Whole School
Tuesday:	Key Stage 1/House Group Key Stage 2 in class
Wednesday:	Key Stage 2/ House Group Key Stage 1 in Class
Thursday:	Worship through Hymns
Friday:	Key Stage 1 and 2 Alternate celebration Assembly/CW

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