

# **St Paul's Catholic Primary School**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

## **Mission Statement**

### *Together in Faith, Working as One*

The overall aim of the school in partnership with parents is to create a caring, well-disciplined environment where children can learn academic skills, social graces and Catholic Christian values to enable them to cope successfully in the world in which they live. We also aim to work with the parents and clergy to develop the spiritual life of the child and to encourage the children to live and work in a Christian manner in the community.

In the religious and social development of the children, the school seeks:

- To enable the children to acquire an understanding and involvement of prayer, worship and liturgy in the practices and beliefs of their Catholic faith.
- To help the children become aware of God's presence in their lives.
- To respond to God's invitation to enter into a personal relationship with him.
- To foster and deepen the children's faith.
- To enable the children to reflect on their own experience and for them to explore the beliefs, values and way of life of the Catholic tradition.

St. Paul's is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child-centred curriculum, which develops independent learning.

## **Introduction**

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's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School**

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

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father in daily prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His

love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning and in the evening.

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**

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- 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
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

### **The principles of Collective Worship**

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:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

**Monday** –Whole school assembly centred round Sunday’s Gospel reading.

**Tuesday** – Class prayer and worship or whole school hymn singing.

**Wednesday** –Class prayer and worship.

**Thursday** – Class prayer and worship

**Friday** – Whole School Celebration Assembly led by a class or Member of SMT

### **Planning Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church’s seasons, 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 using an incremental approach
- It may be linked to the class theme in The Way, The Truth and The Life RE scheme.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Throughout the year, as part of the school’s monitoring calendar, the school’s provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

### **Resources**

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored in classrooms, the PPA Room and on the shared drive. They are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator’s monitoring role.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic 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. The celebrations take the following forms:

- Whole school Masses
- Weekly Key Stage Masses and Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of Obligation if they occur in school time

Children will be encouraged to prepare and participate in special Family Sunday Masses which are arranged with Father Philip. These special masses take place each month of the academic year. Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3.

## Incremental Approach – Collective Worship

<b>Nursery and Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<p><i>Children may...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sing a gather Song</li> <li>• Make the Sign of Cross</li> <li>• Choose suitable artefacts – given a very limited choice</li> <li>• Greet everyone</li> <li>• Set up focus table</li> <li>• Pass things round</li> <li>• Say prayers</li> <li>• Say who/what they want to pray for.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Nursery and Reception plus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose suitable artefacts from a less limited selection</li> <li>• Given the theme, choose an appropriate way to Gather / Go forth (from a limited selection)</li> <li>• Teacher-input to help</li> </ul>	<p><i>All Year 1 plus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can explain the purpose, theme and focus</li> <li>• Using the resources, can choose a suitable:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gather</li> <li>- Listen</li> <li>- Respond and</li> <li>- Go Forth.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Years 3 and 4</b>		
<p><i>All Year 2 plus:</i></p> <p><i>Children may...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a suitable focus without limit of choice. They understand their choice and can make appropriate use of liturgical colours</li> <li>• lead singing</li> <li>• work I.C.T. equipment etc.</li> <li>• write prayers and petitions etc. for inclusion that fit the theme of the Collective Worship</li> <li>• make full use of the resources to choose suitable ways to Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth etc.</li> </ul>		
<b>Years 5 and 6</b>		
<p><i>All Year 3 and 4 plus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the set theme, pupils can now select appropriate Scripture passages (initially from a limited selection)</li> <li>• By end of Y6, all elements should be in place. Pupils should be able to develop all parts of Collective Worship independently with understanding when given a theme or a passage from Scripture.</li> </ul>		