



**St. Charles Borromeo**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AND NURSERY

**Policy for Collective Worship**

This policy has been approved and adopted  
by St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary School

Next review - January 2023



**Part of the Xavier Catholic  
Education Trust**

# St Charles Borromeo Mission Statement

We will **grow** in our Catholic faith by praying and worshipping together.

We will work hard so that we can **learn** and be the best that we can be.

We will **work** together in our families, school, and parish and with those both near and far to make our world a better place for us all.

We will **follow** the example of Jesus and his teachings in all that we say and do.

## Policy for Collective Worship

In keeping with our Mission Statement above, 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 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. (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.

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 need to 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.

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.

### **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.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic ethos of our school.

### **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 develop the skills of:
  - Reverence
  - Contemplation
  - Reflection
  - Interpretation
  - Empathy
  - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

### **PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.

Celebrations will:

- be short and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

## TIMETABLE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage 1	10.15a.m. – 10.30a.m. Assembly	Class Collective Worship	9.15am-9.45am Whole school collective worship and Hymn Practice  Led by Mr Holt/Mrs Flower/Mrs Brown	Class Collective Worship	10.00am-10.30am Whole school assembly Led by Mr Holt/Mrs Flower/Mrs Curtis
Key Stage 2	Class Collective Worship	10.15a.m. – 10.30a.m. Assembly		Class Collective Worship	

## PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship
- involving consultation with the E.P.R Co-ordinator, staff and with 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.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- **Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)**
- **Proclaim – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible.**
- **Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)**
- **Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.**

## ASSEMBLIES

Key Stage assemblies take place weekly and are led by teachers although children are asked to participate where relevant. During the academic year, each class in the school has the opportunity to prepare and deliver a class assembly. These assemblies are presented to the whole school community with parents from the class invited to attend. Governors and some local elderly visitors also join us for these acts of worship.

## EUCCHARIST

Eucharistic celebrations take place at the beginning and end of each term. During the school year, children from Year 1 to Year 6 will plan either a beginning or end of term Mass.

All staff invite Fr. Con into their classrooms for class masses. Year 2 have a special class mass for Mother's Day.

We also gather together as a school community to share the Eucharist on Holy Days or special feast days e.g. the feast of St Charles Borromeo. Other special occasions are also celebrated e.g. Year 3 prepare a special Mass after they have made their First Eucharist which gives the school community the opportunity to come together to celebrate this special sacrament with them.

The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the R.E. Co-ordinator, SMT and governors to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

### **RESOURCES**

Teacher resources, assembly books, assembly plan are located in the staffroom. In each classroom, the children have access to a range of resources including:

- Cloths in the colours of the Liturgical year
- Candles
- A variety of objects and artefacts e.g. stones, shells, statues
- Music/CDs can be accessed in the headteacher's office.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure that every child can participate in acts of collective worship to the best of their ability.

### **THE ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The R.E. Co-ordinator is also the co-ordinator for collective worship.

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator is also responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. This task involves:

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship

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- Informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator will also:

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Lead and organise in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back
- Report to and consult with the governors and Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Act as consultant to colleagues
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaise with the parish priest
- Liaise with other school co-ordinators at termly, Deanery meetings.
- Liaise with the Diocesan RE Centre at The Philip Howard Centre
- Evaluate existing resources and purchase new ones when required. This might include: visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

#### **POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, together with the RE. Governor 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.

Any additional policies referred to can be viewed/downloaded from the school website ([www.stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.stcharlesb.surrey.sch.uk)). All policies should be read in conjunction with central policies of Xavier CET which can be viewed/downloaded from [xaviercet.org.uk](http://xaviercet.org.uk)