

# **St. Mark's Catholic Primary School**

*In a caring Christian Community, together we love, learn, laugh and achieve.*

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **1 Aims and purpose**

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
  - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
  - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
  - to encourage participation and response;
  - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
  - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
  - to teach children how to worship.

### **2 Collective worship**

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, either classroom based or whole school/Key Stage Assembly.
- 3.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

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- 3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worships, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our worships from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Themes are planned well in advance of the day they take place. (Collective Worship timetable)
- 3.5 When appropriate, we welcome parents and governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

## **4 Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.
- 4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

## **5 Monitoring and review**

- 5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors.

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Collective Worship Timetable – 2021/2022 (This is just a guide)

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Autumn 1	New Beginnings	1/9/2021	Starting a new class
		6/9/2021	New day, new start
	Courage	13/9/2021	Being brave
		20/9/2021	Walking in someone else's shoes
		27/9/2021	Standing up to what is right
		4/10/2021	Stepping out of your comfort zone
		11/10/2021	Celebrating good mental health
		18/10/2021	Autumn – Seasonal changes

**Half Term**

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Autumn 2	Honesty	1/11/2021	Owning up
		8/11/2021	Remembrance Sunday
		15/11/2021	Being truthful
		22/11/2021	Doing what is right
	Advent	29/11/2021	Advent begins * Candle of Hope
		6/12/2021	Candle of Peace
		13/12/2021	Candle of Love
		20/12/2021	Candle of Joy

**Half term**

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Spring 1	Feelings	3/1/2022	Being thankful
		10/1/2022	Joy
		17/1/2022	Hate
		24/1/2022	Jealousy
		31/1/2022	Anger
		7/2/2022	Fear
		14/2/2022	Love

**Half Term**

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Spring 2	Friendship	28/2/2022	Lent Begins
		7/3/2022	Choosing friends
		14/3/2022	Helping a friend in need
		21/3/2022	Reciprocation
		28/3/2022	Being a good friend
	Easter	4/4/2022	What is Lent?
		11/4/2022	Holy Week

**Half Term**

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Summer 1	Kindness	25/4/2022	Sharing is caring
		2/5/2022	Paying someone a compliment
		9/5/2022	Being kind to yourself
		16/5/2022	Thinking of others
		23/5/2022	Generosity

**Half Term**

Term	Theme	Date W/C	Ideas
Summer 2	Forgiveness Moving on	13/6/2022	Saying sorry
		20/6/2022	Holding grudges
		27/6/2022	Being free from your sins
		4/7/2022	Preparing for change
		11/7/2022	Moving to a new class