

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 assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time 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.

3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other

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representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

- 3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St Mark's School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6** We invite parents to class assemblies and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7** We welcome 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. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 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

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worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

6. Timetable

Collective Worship Timetable 2017-2018

Autumn 1: 4th September - 20th October

Term	Theme	Week No	Ideas
Autumn	New Beginnings	1	Making a Fresh Start
	Golden Rules	2	Golden Rules
		3	Responsibility
		4	Doing what is right
		5	Sharing
		6	Being treated fairly
	Peace	7	World Peace

Half Term: 23rd October - 27th October

Autumn 2: 30th October - 21st December

	Remembering	8	War and Peace
		9	Remembrance Day
	Light	10	People bringing hope/light into others lives
		11	Making the right choices
		12	Advent
		13	Waiting and Preparing for

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			Jesus
		14	Giving/Birthdays

Spring 1: 3rd January - 9th February

Term	Theme	Week No	Ideas
Spring	New Year	15	Making a New Years Resolution
	Citizenship	16	Our Community
		17	Teamwork
		18	Respect for one another
		19	Our differences
		20	Talents

Half Term: 12th February - 16th February

Spring 2: 19th February - 29th March

	Wonderful World	21	Creation
		22	Springtime
		23	Water
	Easter	24	Lent
		25	CAFOD/Charity/Good Shepherd
		26	Holy Week

Summer 1: 16th April - 20th July

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Term	Theme	Week No	Ideas
Summer	Feelings	27	Love
		28	Hate
		29	Joy
		30	Anger
		31	Fear
		32	Being Thankful

Half Term: 28th May - 8th June

Summer 2: 11th June - 20th July

	Friendship	33	Choosing Friends
		34	Commitment
		35	Friends in Need
	Moving On	36	End of a journey (end of a year)
		37	Changes - going to a new class/school
		38	Holidays/Different places