

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Written by: St. Mark's Catholic Primary
School

Approval Level: Headteacher/Governor

Approved by: S. Bradshaw

Review Date: Sept 2024

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.

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.

6. Timetable

Please insert updated timetable

Collective Worship Timetable (2023/2024)

Please use this as a guide only.

Term	Week beg:	Theme
Autumn	4/9	New Beginnings
	11/9	Golden Rules
	18/9	Making a small change
	25/9	Doing what is right
	2/10	World Animal Day (4 th Oct)
	9/10	Harvest
	16/10	Perseverance
	23/10	Respect
Half term		
	6/11	Remembrance
	13/11	Anti-bullying
	20/11	Friendship
	27/11	Advent Begins (3 rd Dec)
	4/12	Love
	11/12	Hope
	18/12	How can we help those at Christmas?

Term	Week beg:	Theme
Spring	8/1	New Year
	15/1	Opportunities
	22/1	Protecting our Planet
	29/1	Generosity
	5/2	Positive mental health: Children's mental health week (5-11 February 2024)
Half term		
	19/2	Lent Begins (14 th Feb)
	26/2	Forgiveness
	4/3	Trust
	11/3	Budding flowers (plant a flower day 12/3/2024)
	18/3	CAFOD/Charity/Good Shepherd
	25/3	Holy Week

Term	Week beg:	Theme
Summer	8/4	Thankfulness
	15/4	Compassion
	22/4	Celebrating Earth Day (22 nd Apr)
	29/4	Achievement
	6/5	Fairtrade: World Fairtrade Day (11 th May)
	13/5	Kindness
	20/5	Choosing Friends
Half term		
	10/6	Environment (World Environment Day 5 th June)
	17/6	Growing

	24/6	Friends in Need
	1/7	Courage
	8/7	Moving on
	15/7	Memories