

St. Paul & St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School's



Love - Learn - Believe - Achieve

Collective Worship Policy

Current Leader: Maria Reichinger
Reviewed : Annually



St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School
Mission Statement

Love, Learn, Believe, Achieve

At St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School we celebrate the individual differences and gifts that God has blessed each and every one of us with.

Education "is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full." The Catholic ethos, "needs to inform every aspect of school life." (Pope Benedict XVI)

We believe each new day brings the opportunity to express our love for God and one another. We provide a supportive, yet challenging, learning environment where each individual is able to develop their abilities and gifts. Our school is a place where children and adults can express their belief in God; develop belief in themselves and others. We believe everyone in our school community can achieve, whatever their ability. Each achievement is as unique as each individual and all are celebrated. We aspire to equip all in our school community to proclaim the Good News and "live life to the full".

St. Paul & St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School

A Policy for

Collective Worship

Introduction:

Collective Worship in St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School is more than a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition. While respecting diversity of belief and commitment; it is Catholic in character and has Christ at its heart.

We believe that Collective Worship in our Catholic school celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

Collective worship in our school takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those from supportive Catholic homes.
- Those for who school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions.
- Those from other faith backgrounds

The Aims of Collective Worship:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship the mystery of God.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop a community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values and positive attitudes.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To introduce children to important aspects of the Gospel message, reflect on and celebrate the Word of God at their own level of understanding.
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Objectives

To fulfil these aims, St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School will provide opportunities for our community to:-

- celebrate life and learning
- give worth to
- wonder at
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- pray together
- take part in worship through prayer, drama and song
- follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge 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 year or class groups.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is not to be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Organisation of Collective Worship:

In order to do this, celebrations will –

- Be kept small where possible, or appropriate, to help personalise the experience.
- Be short and appropriately paced : 5-6 minutes for Foundation Stage, 6-7 minutes for KS 1.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences, offered in a variety of groupings and a variety of settings.
- Give glory, praise and thanks to God.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of our school and its Catholic character.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, ability and family background.

Guidelines for Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Recorded
- Monitored
- Evaluated

All acts of worship in this school should be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experiences and relevant to their lives.
- Acknowledge diversity.
- Involve pupils as active participants.
- Match the needs of pupils.
- Foster a sense of community.
- Respect the freedom of pupils and adults in the invitation to prayer and worship.

They should be spiritual:

- Time for stillness and reflection.
- A special time – conducive to worship.
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Include a variety of words, music and images.
- Provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities.
- Provide opportunity for children to take an active part in worship.

Collective Worship could be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain:

- Related to learning experiences across the curriculum.
- Related to pupils own life experiences.
- Celebrate educational achievements and talents.

Planning for Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, significant dates and the curriculum. It will be flexible, to respond to changing situations within school and the wider community as well as local, national and global issues. It can involve the children in deciding the stories, songs, poems, prayers, music etc and give opportunities for stillness and quiet reflection.

It will encourage children to realise that we can turn to God our Father to pray in good and bad times and give children the experience of being part of a Community of Faith.

The Four Part Process

The format for Collective Worship in our school will be:-

Gather – how we come together, the setting, environment, music, icons, candles etc.

Listen – who will read ?, scripture, poem, prayer, story etc.

Respond – the response – prayers, reflection, questions, discussion etc.

Go Forth – something to take away or hold on to from this act of worship, into their daily lives.

A Collective Worship Planner is to be completed on a regular basis, copies of which will be handed to the RE Co-ordinator for monitoring purposes.

Resources

Resourcing Collective Worship is achieved largely through the R.E budget. Resources are too many to list.

- Each class has a resource box containing a set of cloths in the appropriate liturgical colours for the churches year and other resources to provide choices for a focus for worship within the classroom.
- In addition there is a large variety of whole school resources held centrally in the school hall.

Strategies

1. Daily Collective Worship in Class:

Each class gathers together for a period of Collective Worship on days when no whole school or key stage Collective Worship is planned. The duration of this gathering depends on the age of the child. A guide for this would be approximately one minute for the age of each child. All classes have a focus area. Children are encouraged to lead and plan as far as possible using a range of resources to encourage reflection, appropriate to their age.

Teachers may wish to include themes from “Come and See” PSHE, the Liturgical Year, events within our school and classes, national or world events, or any other appropriate areas.

Monday – Reception

Tuesday – Year 1

Thursday – Year 2

2. Class prayer time.

Children also pray together in class at the beginning of the school day, before lunch and the end of each day. Formal prayers or children’s own prayers can be used.

3. Whole School Assembly

The whole school, including staff, gather in the hall on a Friday afternoon for Collective Worship. This is followed by a celebratory assembly led by the Headteacher. There is a great emphasis on moral development through sharing examples of kindness, consideration and good behaviour. Self – esteem and responsibility are promoted. Children share their talents & achievements. (Golden Book, Attendance etc).

- Whole school assemblies, including worship are planned throughout the year to celebrate special events in the Liturgical Year, such as : Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Saints Days, or local and national events, such as Chinese New Year and Red Nose Day, NSPCC Number Day.

4. Masses / Celebrations

- Each term a Year 2 class leads a Community Mass which is held in school. Parents/Carers, Governors and members of the parish community are invited to attend.
- Together with St Paul’s Junior School a mass is celebrated annually with all staff and governors.
- Assemblies, including worship are planned throughout the year to celebrate special events in the Liturgical Year, such as Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter, or local and national events, such as Remembrance Day, Chinese New Year and Red Nose Day. (see list of Celebrations/Masses Appendix 2)
- A ‘Welcome Service’ takes place for all Reception children and their families at the start of the academic year. All Reception children are presented with their own Bible.

5. Stay and Pray

Parents/Carers and parishioners are invited to special prayer times and quiet reflection during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

6. Staff Spirituality

Staff are invited to participate in “Collective Worship” in order to support and develop their own spirituality. This may be through the “Come and See for Yourself” reflections, INSET Day reflections, attendance and participation in school Masses and Liturgies, Archdiocesan training and in Spirituality INSET.

All staff are invited to gather together each Monday morning for a collective worship led by the Headteacher.

Monitoring:

Examples of Collective Worship Planners and photographs are to be given to the RE Co-ordinator on a regular basis as part of the monitoring process. Observations of Collective Worship will be undertaken by the Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator once a year, to consider whether it meets the needs of our pupils and whether it reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Training for Collective Worship will be part of the induction process for all new staff.

This policy has been presented to the Governing Body and will be reviewed every two years.

Signed.....

Mrs M. Reichinger

Appendix 1

Traditional Prayers are introduced to children in line with the *Come and See* guidance as follows. Additionally, those marked with an * can be learnt by memory:

Reception

Sign of the cross*

Our Father

Hail Mary

Morning and Evening prayers

Prayers before and after meals

Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)

Simple litanies of thanks and praise

Prayerful reflection on the day

Years 1 and 2

All those listed above, plus:

Our Father*

Hail Mary*

Glory Be to the Father*

Morning offering*

Grace at Meals*

Mass responses*

Prayers at Mass

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayer for Lent (This is the wood of the cross)

Simple examination of conscience / review of the day

Appendix 2

School Celebrations and Assemblies

Come and See Collective Worship

Cafod Assemblies

Welcome Service- Reception

Harvest- Y1, Y2

Remembrance Assembly Y1&Y2

St Andrew's Assembly

Advent

Nativities Reception, Y1, Y2

St Patrick's Assembly

St David's Assembly

Ash Wednesday

Lenten Prayer times -Year 2

Easter Assemblies Year 2

St George's Assembly

Thanksgiving/ Moving on Assemblies Reception, Y1

Y2 Leavers Celebration Mass

West Derby Network Learning Community Mass –School Council, Governors, Staff

St Paul & St Timothy's and St Paul's Junior School joint staff Mass