

# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy 2021-2023

Head Teacher: Mr V Turner

This Policy was ratified by St. Teresa's Local Governing Committee in **Autumn 2021**

Signed by the Head Teacher:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V Turner', is written over the line for the Head Teacher's signature.

Signed by the Chair of Governors:

Date of next review: **Summer 2023**

This policy will be reviewed in **summer 2023** or sooner if deemed necessary. All staff and governors will be consulted as to its effectiveness as part of the review process.

**Requests for copies** - If a signed paper copy of this policy is requested, the school office will provide this free of charge.

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

## **Policy for Collective Worship**

### **Mission Statement**

*'Shine in little ways'*

*We inspire everybody in St. Teresa's to shine in their own way, in a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment. We learn, work and serve together in unity with the school, church, families and community. To grow in God's way and be a witness to our faith.*

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

Collective worship in a Catholic school names and 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'

### **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St. Teresa's School**

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Collective worship considers 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.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in St. Teresa's School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit

- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

### Principles

All acts of worship in St. Teresa's School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils 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 appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

### Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Youth Friday.

Collective Worship considers current diocesan/global prayer cycles determined by Pope Francis or Bishop Robert. E.g. Year of the Word, Year of St. Joseph, Year of the Eucharist. Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Head Teacher, RE Co-ordinator liaise with parish priest to plan dates for masses in Church, each led by a class.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below, but is subject to change/alteration:

Monday	9.10am	Whole School	Head Teacher
Tuesday	9.10am	KS2	KS2 teacher rota
Wednesday	Throughout the school day	Class liturgy	Class pupils to lead
Thursday	9.10am	KS1	KS1 teacher rota
Friday	2.30pm	Celebration assembly	Head Teacher

**NB:** acts of worship take place within each classroom each day

### Opportunities for staff prayer

- All Staff training days begin with Mass/prayers/liturgy/act of worship, led by Head Teacher or RE Co-ordinator/Priest.
- RE Co-ordinator leads all staff in a liturgy once a week during Advent and Lent.
- Staff are encouraged to attend significant Masses/services during the year E.g. First Holy Communion, Christingle Service/ First Reconciliation Services

### Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher (Mr V Turner), along with Re Co-ordinator (Miss R McTernan) will plan, lead, monitor and evaluate collective worship.

Class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

### Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- as a timetable, keeping note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources;
- as a plan or notes by the leading teacher;
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc;

- Planning sheet which includes four parts- Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth;
- Respond booklets- these can be used by class teachers and pupils to support them in liturgy planning, at the end of a RE topic.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

In order to ensure that effective monitoring of Collective Worship takes place the following questions need to be addressed:

- Is the monitoring of Collective Worship part of the school success plan?
- Is the monitoring/improvement of Collective Worship of importance to the governing body and therefore an item on the agenda?
- How will the monitoring process be used to further develop Collective Worship?

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form (Appendix 2).

### **Resources**

RE and CW resources are kept within the stock cupboard in the hall. Books are kept on the shelves within the School Chapel. Each class also has individual resources for their own prayer corners, kept in a clearly labelled box in the classroom.

### **The learning environment**

- Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment.
- Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

### **Voluntary Worship and Retreats**

- A voluntary Rosary prayer group is planned for the month of May, open to KS2 pupils.
- Pupils have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.
- Children are encouraged to utilise the School Chapel for their own prayer, reflection and quiet time. The School chapel may be used voluntarily during playtime and lunchtime as well as during lesson time, when required and appropriate.
- When children attend residential visits, they are encouraged to enter into short acts of Collective Worship. Prayer is a special part of the school family time shared.

### **Eucharist**

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- whole school masses;
- class Masses;
- the whole school will take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time, at St. Teresa's Church;
- the school will take part in Mass on or near the feast of St. Teresa if it occurs in school time, at St. Teresa's Church;
- children being encouraged to participate in Sunday Masses throughout the year.

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

Miss R McTernan is the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and she will work alongside the Head Teacher in organising all forms of collective worship. The co-ordinator will be responsible for:

- formulation of written policy;
- ensuring there is a development plan for collective worship;
- 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 and is rooted in the Catholic teachings of the Church;
- organising themes for worship;
- equip class teachers with skills and knowledge to provide a range of Collective Worship opportunities and opportunities for child planned and led Collective Worship;
- assisting the governors and head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator 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.