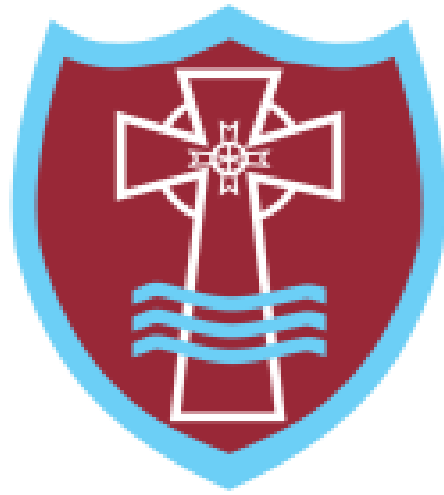


St Aidan's Catholic Primary Academy



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: June 2023



Review date: September 2025

Mission Statement:

“Together we all enjoy learning, achieving, sharing and praying. Let Jesus’ love shine through in everything we do”

Contents:

1. The Nature of Collective Worship
2. Legal Requirements
3. The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School
4. The Aims of Collective Worship
5. Principles
6. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship
- 2 7. Recording
- 3 8. Resources
- 3 9. Eucharist
- 3 10. Monitoring & Evaluating
- 3 11. Funding
- 3 12. Policy Monitoring & Review

1. The nature of collective worship:

1.1 We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is central to the life of our school. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter in a relationship with the Father, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

2. Legal requirements:

2.1 We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer said either by the teacher or everyone present does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

3. The place of collective worship:

3.1 We endorse the belief that 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

3.2 It will be an education activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

3.3 Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

4. The aims of collective worship:

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To be brought closer to God through reflection and prayer
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect upon spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To mark occasions as special
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared value
- To enrich their religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
 - To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

5. Principles:

5.1 All acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God with awe and wonder opportunities.
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church

5.2 In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small and wherever possible help to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be held in a place appropriate to the theme
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

5.3 In our school, the daily act of Collective Worship through prayer, takes place at various times of the school day, predominantly morning, before and after lunch, evening. Other opportunities are also facilitated: reflection during or at the beginning or end of RE lessons, the end of a topic and according to children's needs.

5.4 The whole school community, including our Foundation Stage, come together to worship on a Monday morning, this is usually lead by the HT. It is an opportunity that we take to worship collectively, respectfully and joyfully, reflecting on the Gospel message from the previous weekend.

6. Planning, content and delivery of collective worship:

6.1 Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year, often guided by those selected to form the 'Liturgy Team'. Appropriate visitors, including our Parish Priest, are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

6.2 Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

6.3 Our Catholic Collective Worship:

- Follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the wider curriculum. Scripture is the focus of most acts of worship;
- Often involves consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies;
- Is flexible to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community;
- Aims to develop pupils' skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead certain aspects of worship.

7. Recording:

7.1 Collective Worship is, at times, recorded:

- Through displays in class and throughout the whole school, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc
- In the Subject Leader's file
- Through our school website, newsletter and social media

8. Resources:

8.1 Posters are stored in drawers in the dining hall and candles, artefacts, books and cloths are kept in the RE resource area. Each class have resources for prayer areas that are consistent across the school and each class are able to add their own individual resources personal to the class.

8.2 Access to forms of religious music (Taize, hymns) can be found in the PPA room.

8.3 Our prayer areas are available all day to allow children access to a reflective area, prayer book and Scripture. This is also used by staff of other faiths for prayer and quiet reflection. We have a prayer garden for outdoor collective worship which is used for class and whole school worship.

9. Eucharist:

9.1 Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion or reflect the season of the Liturgical year.

9.2 These Masses are a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. Mass is celebrated either in School or in the Church. The staff and children prepare the music, prayers and readings for these celebrations.

10. Monitoring and evaluation:

10.1 At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The subject lead monitors end of topic responds services and supports those members of staff who are not Catholic.

11. Funding:

11.1 Through discussion between the Headteacher and the RE Subject Leader, a budget is allocated to support the provision of RE and collective worship.

12. Policy monitoring and review:

12.1 This policy is monitored by the Subject Leaders for Collective Worship and is to be evaluated and review by the whole school staff and governors every three years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

This policy has been agreed by:

Signed:.....  **Headteacher**

Signed:.....  **Chair of Governors**

To be reviewed in September 2025