



Collective Worship Policy

1. The Nature of Collective Worship

- 1.1. We believe that worship in our school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in word and action to our relationship with God and is the foundation upon which our community grows and builds. We place prayer at the 'core' of our school life and we have an open invitation to everyone regardless of background. Through worship we reflect on and express the central mission of our school community. Collective worship is the term used in legislation in this country. Prayer and Liturgy are the terms with which we are familiar. The table below outlines the language and terminology used at Our Lady's.

Term	Explanation
Act of Worship	The daily gathering of the community in prayer, whether as a whole school or in key stage or class groups. They are concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God.
Celebration of Mass	The times when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist together, either as a whole school, Key stage, class group or in our parish church. Pre-first communion age children join in at the end of term masses or holydays of obligation.
Prayer Time	The times when we punctuate the day with less formal opportunities for prayer. These include morning prayer, grace before and after meals, prayer at the end of the day, impromptu prayer to respond to an event or situation during the day.
Liturgy	The times when we gather for a formal service that is not Eucharistic. This may include Advent and Lent/Easter Services having at the heart symbol and action, involving all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell. We endeavour to lead the children into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish.

2. Prayer Life of the School

- 2.1. We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils and that parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship. However, worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of our school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

3. Aims

- 3.1. To achieve our vision of bringing the children into a living relationship with God we aim to:
- Invite the children to know God in their lives and explore their belief.
 - Develop the spirituality of the children and help them to think about the mystery of God.
 - Engage the children in their faith journey, leading them towards an understanding and appreciation of prayer and the sacraments.
 - Enable the children to learn about the Church through experiencing its celebrations.
 - Encourage confidence in using some of the formal prayers of the Church.
 - Bring scripture to life and enrich religious experience.
 - Experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
 - Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

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- Age, aptitudes and backgrounds of the children are taken into account as far as possible.

4. Typical Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole school gathers. This worship is led by the headteacher* *In the Headteacher's absence the Assistant Head.	Class Act of Worship	Act of Worship & Hymn practice YrR-Yr6 This is led by the subject leader for music..	KS1 Act of Worship	KS2 Act of Worship
Celebration of Mass for older children as well as hall and class room based act of worship for younger children are arranged with our Parish Priest at the beginning of the school year.				

5. Our worship has many elements. A planning sheet is available if staff request it. (See Appendix B). Our vision is made real by practitioners following the Church's seasons, significant dates and also the curriculum when planning the content and delivery of collective worship. We have the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community. Staff keep their own records and these may include notes of themes, reflections, prayers, photographs and evaluations.

6. Act Of Worship

- 6.1. As a staff we aim to create the right atmosphere. We endeavour to lead the children into powerful ways of praying by
- **Creating a focal point for prayer.** This is always attractively presented with appropriate drapes, posters, artefacts, statues, flowers, the word of God and a candle. In class rooms it is a permanent feature that changes to reflect the liturgical year or the current topic being explored. In classrooms we use very real symbols which come out of children's own experiences. Children add their own pictures, prayers that they have written or artefacts that they have made out of lego or clay.
 - **USING Music and Song.** Music sets the scene but is also used for listening and meditative prayer
 - **WORD OF GOD**
 - **DRAMA/RITUAL**
 - **SILENCE**
 - **DANCE**
- 6.2. At FS and KS1 worship includes short simple liturgies with ritual and variety. Occasionally these liturgies reflect the introductory rites in the Mass or the liturgy of the word.

- 6.3. To prepare for mass, Act of Worship will use order of mass from the Bernadette Mass setting.

7. Celebration Of Mass

- 7.1. This is normally celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised.
- 7.2. In preparation for celebrating mass, Acts of Worship will include various parts of the Bernadette Mass setting.

8. Prayer Time

- 8.1. Our vision outlines that we expose our children to prayers. (See Appendix A).
- 8.2. Prayer time takes place on at least 3 occasions each day. start of the day, *before* and after mealtimes and end of the school day. These small classroom based gatherings help to personalise the prayer experience. These shared times are short, appropriately paced and simple. Given the importance of worship in our school we have spontaneous opportunities for prayer and do not confine it to 'timetabled slots'. Prayer life at Our Lady's may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.
- 8.3. Prayer time for staff includes voluntary retreats and a prayer before staff meetings. Diocesan inset days support staff faith.
- 8.4. The prayer life of the school is enhanced by the raising of alms or Lenten fundraising.

9. Liturgy

- 9.1. Our liturgy involves action and symbol. The children prepare for the joyful events of Christmas and Easter. All including friends and parents are invited to the special services which include prayers, music, readings and drama. We divide liturgy preparation into four parts.
- GATHERING - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/reflective music, lighted candles, statues, etc)
 - WORD - a reading from the Scriptures, time to reflect on this, and prayers to fit in with the theme.
 - ACTION - a ritual or movement in which everyone can join that fits the theme (gestures such as: shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, response to prayers, etc).
 - MISSION - the sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the *experience* of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

10. Monitoring

- 10.1. The head and governors ensure that requirements are met and that opportunities for quality Collective Worship are offered.
- 10.2. All new staff receive induction to support their understanding and implementation of the Collective Worship Policy.

11. Policy Monitoring And Review

- 11.1. The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, led by the RE Subject Lead and RE Adviser. Governor Visits support and review their work.
- 11.2. This policy is reviewed by the Every Child Matters Committee a minimum of once every three years.

11.3. Appendix A

The variety and styles of prayer are developed in ways which are appropriate to pupils age and stage of development.

Prayers which will have been introduced by the end of Key Stage 1

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory be
- *Grace before* meals
- Simple responses
- The Lord be with you - Lord hear us - Sign of Peace-Angel of *God*
- Stations of the Cross
- Eucharistic prayers for children
- Phrases from the psalms
- Morning and night prayer
- Simple act of contrition
- Prayers for special occasions
- Prayers for the dying
- Taize chants
- Meditation

Prayers which children will have been introduced to by the end of Key stage 2 in addition to the above.

- The Creed
- I Confess
- Eternal Rest
- Penitential Rites

All mass responses should be familiar to the children by the end of this key stage.

This will be through the Bernadette Mass setting.

Introduction to the Benedictus and the Rosary.

The Act of Worship

In any act of worship there are four main elements:

- Gathering
- Word
- Action
- Mission

Gathering

How we come together, the setting, the environment, (quiet / reflective music, lighted candle)

Word

A reading from the Bible (or another suitable resource), breaking the word (teacher input / teaching) Time to reflect on this and prayers that fit in with the theme.

Action

A ritual, movement, that everyone can join in with, which fits in with the theme.

Prayers

Response to prayers / Psalms

Shaking hands / holding hands Passing a Bible around

Mission

The sending out from the celebration.

From the elements above is there something children can do to hold into their experience and take it into everyday life.

“The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed: at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows”.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church) (Vatican II S.C.10)

Appendix B

Liturgy Planning Sheet

Theme _____ Class/Year Group/Key Stage _____

Gathering

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The Word

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Action

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Mission

