Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Following in Jesus’ footsteps we will:**

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**Pray together, Play together, Learn together.**

**In fulfilling our Mission Statement we aim to:**

**Pray together:**

* Through our family and community of faith we strive for all to hear the message of God.
* Through the promotion of the Christian values of love, acceptance and respect for all, we will provide opportunities for all to develop an awareness of God’s presence in themselves and in others.
* Through the teachings and practice of our faith we will provide opportunities to respond to the word of God through collective worship, celebration and quiet reflection.

**Play together:**

* Through the development of excellent relationships in our school community we will strive to ensure all experience mutual respect, acceptance and love.
* Through fun filled activities, projects and social events we will provide opportunities to promote community cohesion and togetherness.
* Through our creative curriculum we will strive for all to seek excellence and experience enjoyment.

**Learn together:**

* Through the provision of a stimulating, well-balanced, forward thinking, diverse curriculum we will provide opportunities for all to develop an awareness of themselves, others and the world in which we live.
* Through inspirational, innovative, holistic teaching we will seek to create learners who aspire to succeed.
* Through the promotion of learning and equality for all we will strive to create independent, life long learners.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School in its approach to Collective Worship endeavours to take into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

* Those whom form part of the worshipping community in church.
* Those whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
* Those of other Christian tradition.
* Those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship in Holy Family Catholic Primary School is an educational and spiritual activity or experience:-

* To which ALL can contribute
* From which ALL can give

This policy statement is based wholly upon our School’s Mission Statement. At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Collective Worship is recognised and valued more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic Education and forms an essential part of the school’s overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School whilst respecting the diversity of belief and commitment will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the church and having Christ at its heart.

Aims

Collective Worship aims to provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God by:-

* Providing the opportunity to enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
* To develop a community spirit.
* To promote and encourage a common ethos and share values and reinforce positive attitudes.
* Provide opportunity to consider and reflect spiritual and moral issues.
* To build a firm foundation of Liturgy.
* To develop a community spirit.
* To provide an educational and spiritual experience or activity to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
* Ensure pupils have the opportunity to explore their own beliefs.
* To respect and celebrate life.
* To enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
* To promote each child’s innate capacity for awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

Objectives

To fulfil the aims, Holy Family Catholic Primary School will provide opportunities for celebrating community to:-

* To celebrate Life and Learning
* To give worth to
* To wonder at
* To contemplate something of the mystery of God
* To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
* To pray together
* To take part in worship through drama and song
* To follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping the Gospel values at the heart of everything
* To explore the child’s own experiences by helping each individual to EXPLORE REVEAL and RENEW with regard to all acts of collective worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

‘Where two or three are gathered in my name – I am among them’ (Matthew 18:20)

Collective Worship – Who

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School the Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consulting with the Headteacher. The Headteacher must ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day. Teachers enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents/carers, parishioners and the local school community are invited on a regular basis to participate in Collective Worship.

* We acknowledge that parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship.

In the classroom – where our children spend most of their time; therefore it must be a place where they feel comfortable, secure and happy to develop their spirituality and share ideas and values with their friends and teachers. Here a focus for worship is provided based on the Come and See themes. This should be as simple as necessary and appropriate, with the children playing an increasingly responsible role in its organisation.

In the school hall – here the children, staff and if appropriate the parents/carers come together in a community atmosphere of prayer, reflection and song.

In the open – at Holy Family Catholic Primary School we have plenty of space outside to use in which we can all share the gifts of our environment.

In church – our parish church of Holy Family is a special place to share the message of the Gospel. It is a place of celebration where we can come together as a school to share and worship with the parish community. We also recognise our wider community and celebrate Holy Communion together.

Collective Worship – When

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School we assemble in a variety of groups.

Whole School Collective Worship

Assemblies

On a weekly basis there is one key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and one whole school assembly. The Headteacher and the staff lead the Key Stage assemblies on a rota basis whilst the whole school assembly is led by either the Headteacher or a member of staff with support from all staff and children.

The themes of the assemblies are based upon the Come and See topics, the Liturgical calendar and feasts, school events and projects, and promoting of school values. One class will always prepare and lead a celebration assembly at the end of a Come and See topic to which all parents/carers are invited. On special occasions the whole school will gather together to participate in a celebrations assembly. Parents/carers, parishioners, governors and the whole school community are always invited to these whole school acts of Collective Worship e.g. Advent, Lent, etc.

Class Worship

For the remainder of the week, the class is the focus for worship.

* Relating to work done in the Come and See programme
* Linked to the appropriate Liturgical season
* Linked to other celebrations
* Themes or ideas developed or suggested by children or staff

The teacher may use a selection of music, prayer, stories, poems or other appropriate resources to assist the children in developing spirituality and to provide an opportunity to reflect.

Children with Additional Needs

The whole school approach to Collective Worship is inclusive rather than exclusive. The individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

Equal Opportunities

Boys and girls are treated with equal respect. Care is given to ensure that all material used in developing the spiritual needs of the children addresses issues of gender, ability, race and religion.

Continuity and Progression

The content and delivery of Collective Worship allows for the children to progress and develop spirituality at their own level of understanding

Much of the worship is governed by the topics in the Come and See syllabus. This ensures progression and continuity, as both these aspects of a child’s learning are an integral part of Come and See. The topics covered encompass a structured, well planned programme.

Cross Curricular

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience. It includes many areas of the curriculum and care is taken in Holy Family Catholic Primary School to fulfil our mission. Hence, our whole curriculum is celebrated, as we believe that every aspect of school life helps to develop the child’s potential as an individual.

Evaluation and Assessment

Collective Worship is evaluated with reference to a variety of possible Collective Worship experience.

Records of worship are kept for whole school celebrations, assemblies and yearly class acts of worship. These records keep a note of themes, leaders, pupils grouping, resources and content of worship.

Records are also maintained through display, collections of pupils’ contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and video.

Prayer

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, teachers encourage many styles of prayer – formal, informal, public and private during the child’s school life. Opportunities are given for the children to experience and develop all types of prayer. A focal point for prayer is always present in all the school acts of Collective Worship. Children gather together for prayer at the start and end of the day and also at mealtimes. We also encourage spontaneous prayer whenever the need or occasion arises.

Class teacher are encouraged to choose prayers, which they think, are most suitable for their children’s age. We also recognise that certain prayers form part of culture and tradition of the Catholic faith and as such we enable the children learn and know the following:-

* Our Father
* Glory Be
* Hail Mary
* Act of Contrition
* Morning Offering
* Prayers before Meals
* Holy Family School Prayer
* ‘Sorry’ Prayer

Also, an increasing knowledge of Mass responses.

Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to make up their own prayers, either as individuals, group or whole class.

Teachers use reflective music in order to create an appropriate atmosphere. Each class is also provided with a candle for their specific focus area for worship within the class. Children occasionally choose and read a prayer at the weekly whole school assemblies.

Sacramental Celebration/Liturgy

Many of our Liturgical services are sacramental thus reflecting a deepening of the sacramental nature of our school

Formal Liturgical services take place in order to celebrate:

The Liturgical Year

* Advent/Christmas
* Receiving Ashes
* Lent/Holy Week
* Easter
* Holy days of Obligation
* Pentecost
* Feast of the Holy Family
* Morning Mass Year 1 – Year 6

On these occasions all the pupils attend (except Early Years– dependent on time of year).

Through the wide experiences of Collective Worship we encourage our children to develop attitudes of praise and reverence. We allow their natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised and developed. In all our work in this area, we seek to proclaim the Christian message and to live it alongside our children, their families and all in our school community.

Conclusion

Collective worship at Holy Family Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. These opportunities are but steps on our journey so that all involved in our community might come to;

‘Have life – life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10).

We firmly believe that worship at our school is a central feature in the life of our school.

Through helping our children to celebrate shared values, by fostering a commitment towards God, it is intended that Collective Worship should act as an integrating and enriching element within the whole school community and beyond.