

St Philip's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Working Together Through Christ



CRC Article 29(goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Collective Worship Policy

Requirement

It is a requirement that there is a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Collective worship is not designated under any part of the curriculum time, therefore will never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but is used to enhance and enrich spirituality across the school. Collective worship includes:

- Catholic children who regularly attend Church
- Catholic children from Catholic families
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of the Church
- Those from other Christian backgrounds – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Aims

The purpose of Collective Worship:

- To give glory, honour and praise to God
- To develop as a community of faith
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- To give positive liturgical experiences to our pupils
- To witness to the community and the wider world
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To develop a common ethos and shared values

Mission

'Collective Worship (CW) is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our response to God's invitation.' (St John Damascene)

Within our school, collective worship is a way of celebrating our faith and deepening our relationship with God through prayer, reflection, praise and celebration.

Collective Worship refers not only to whole school gatherings but to those acts of worship which take place in a number of different settings and groupings of people in and around the school including:

- Whole school assembly
- Whole school Mass
- Prayer Partner gatherings
- Class Liturgy
- Meditation
- Songs of Praise
- Wednesday Word class gatherings
- Special gatherings during Lent, Advent, May and October

Expectations for Collective Worship

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church. Participation in collective acts of worship remains at the helm of every morning and afternoon session, within RE lessons and at the end of each day.

- Every class will have a Prayer area, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the church's year. Prayer Areas must not be untidy.
- Every class prepares and leads Mass on a rota basis, with parents, families and parishioners warmly welcomed.
- Daily prayers are said at the start and end of each day, other prayers such as grace before and after meals are said.
- On Monday a whole school gospel assembly takes place.
- Songs of Praise are practised each week which is led to enrich worship.
- Class liturgies which are planned for as part of the curriculum, have a specific theme such as reconciliation and forgiveness during Lent.
- During May and October the school prays the Rosary both in the classrooms and during special whole school gatherings.
- Stations of the Cross Assemblies are held during Lent and are led by the teachers on a rota basis.

- Children receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as a Mass/Service, presided over by the Parish Priest.

Planning

Collective Worship in our school follows the pattern of :

- Gathering – how we come together, the environment (quiet, reflective music, lighted candles, statues).
- Listening – a reading from the Scriptures, time to reflect on this and prayer to fit into this theme.
- Responding – thinking deeply and responding to the teachings of Christ
- Mission/going forth - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from their experience of the liturgy that they can take into their lives.

Inclusion

All children have equal access to Collective Worship, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of CW is expected. As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic Church. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged.

Monitoring

The school's provision for collective worship is evaluated regularly by pupils, staff, governors and leaders to consider how it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

September 2018

To be reviewed bi-annually