



Ss John Fisher & Thomas More
RC High School

Collective Worship Policy

Compiled by: Mrs R Bowes	Date: November 2020
Approved by: Governors' Pupil Welfare Committee	Revision Date: November 2023

Note: Due to current restrictions this policy cannot be implemented. Please see Risk assessment and Diocesan recommendations for more information.

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Introduction:

What do we mean by collective worship?

“Full conscious and active participation”
in liturgy
is what the Church
desires for all the faithful.
(Sacrosanctum Concilium 2 .14)

As members of our community at Fisher More we must strive to bring this about in all that we undertake in our daily lives.

Collective worship at Fisher More goes beyond the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Worship in our school is Christ-centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic tradition and it reflects the values of the Gospel.

Collective worship should be defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils and staff to come together to pray and worship God. It is through these acts of communal worship that we may come to a fuller appreciation of ourselves, of our relationship with God and others, while allowing us to reflect on what is of value and importance in our lives.

All members of our school community have opportunities for prayer and reflection in both sacramental, and non-sacramental liturgies. There are many opportunities for the school community (pupils, staff, governors and parents) to share in the liturgical life of the school. On some occasions this will be voluntary but encouragement is given to all to participate using their own gifts and talents. Examples of our acts of collective worship include - Year Assemblies, morning prayer/reflection, Advent services, whole school Masses, Form Masses, Reconciliation services and Eucharistic celebrations.

Mission Statement**We seek to:**

Recognise the worth and dignity of all people

Deliver a challenging, high quality education

Enable everyone to grow as balanced individuals, intellectually, spiritually and morally

Provide a secure, supportive and stimulating Christian environment within the context of Catholic tradition, in which justice, tolerance, forgiveness and generosity are practised with courtesy, consideration and common sense.

Offer young people a reason for living and hoping.

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all learners. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all learners, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) 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.

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.

In this school, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship takes place rests with the Governing Board after consultation with the Head teacher.

The Nature of Collective Worship.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account 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.
- Those we acknowledge have no faith.

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

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 and the development of the Fisher More Family.

The Aims of Collective Worship.

- We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all learners and staff:
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore our own beliefs and feelings.
- To respond to, and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.

- To develop a common ethos and shared values.
- To develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience for all.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To reinforce positive attitudes.
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a high-quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- Lead learners to a greater understanding of the word of God expressed in the Bible and religious stories.
- Celebrations will:
 - be short and appropriately paced.
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
 - include singing, drama and other forms of participation.
 - use a range of multisensory resources to gain and hold learners' attention and include them spiritually in the liturgy.

Expectations:

Regardless of their own faith background the expectation is that pupils will participate in the act of Collective worship every morning in form or an assembly.

The expectation is that every pupil will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a form Mass and form assembly.

To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and morning prayers have been produced.

Resources for collective worship for each week of the academic year are available on the Common Area under Chaplaincy - collective worship folder.

All themes are based upon the previous Sunday's Gospel and in line with the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church.

Collective Worship is organised in our school as follows:

Whole school Mass in school at least three times a year to celebrate an event in the liturgical calendar or a school event.

Weekly Form Mass in Chapel at lunchtimes open to the whole community of Fisher More.

Prayers at the start of the school day at staff briefing and in form time/assembly.

Prayer and song in many RE lessons.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons.
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop learners' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and participate in worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)

Proclaim – every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.

Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)

Go Forth – Giving the learners something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- Through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc. around school and in the Chapel. In addition, it is uploaded onto the school website and onto the school site on Facebook.

Responsibilities:

Parents are expected to promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship and to provide necessary support as they are the first teachers of their children.

Pupils are expected to participate in all acts of collective worship in a respectful and reverent way.

Form Tutors* are expected to:

- ensure that acts of worship and form assemblies are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.
- ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to take part in daily acts of worship.
- promote the importance of daily worship.

Directors of Progress must:

- carry out their respective responsibilities with respect to all aspects of collective worship.
- monitor the quality of the acts of collective worship in form periods and assemblies.
- give appropriate feedback and support to the form tutors.

The Head teacher, SLT and Faculty Leader with responsibility for the Catholic life of the school must:

- ensure that there are opportunities for quality Collective Worship to be delivered.
- ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Collective Worship
- evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Collective Worship.

The Governing Body is expected to:

- ratify the Collective Worship Policy and make sure that it is fully implemented.

**and the chaplain and any other adult leading acts of worship*

Co-Ordinator for Collective Worship

TBC

Policy Monitoring and Review

This Policy is evaluated and reviewed by the Faculty Lead for the Religious Life of the School, SLT and Governing Board every three years.

The link Chaplaincy Governor, Mr P Adefuye will feedback to the Governing Board termly.