

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy and Guidance

Our Mission

“To do the little things well”

Our mission is inspired by our patron Saint – St Theresa of Lisieux. By using and referring to our mission statement, our vision and our values on a daily basis, we can ensure that we are building a strong Christian Community where all children and adults feel valued.

Our Vision

- To be a school that lives the Gospel values through our thoughts, words and actions; every day; in every little way;
 - To be the best;
- To educate our children to reach their full potential and to be brilliant;
 - To ignite a love of learning, curiosity and interests;
 - To inspire our children to have ambition for themselves;
- To be a school that inspires, encourages and values every individual.

Our Core Values

To carry out our roles within the school:

- with love for the people we serve;
 - with respect for everyone;
- with pride in ourselves and our school;
- with compassion and understanding of everyone’s needs and challenges;
 - without excuses – solutions, not problems;
 - with hope, high aspirations and strong ambition;
- with kindness, happiness and gentleness – our job is a privilege;
 - with tolerance, inclusion and without prejudice;
 - with honesty, integrity and humility;
 - with forgiveness.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life of St Theresa's and a fundamental part of all of our school celebrations. We believe that Collective Worship should happen on a daily basis and we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We aim for Collective Worship to be spiritually engaging and interesting for our children, instigating deep thought and heart felt response to God's word. Although we understand worship is a legal requirement, here at St Theresa's it is more than that. It is an integral part of our school life, central to our Catholic traditions and a platform in which the Gospel Values are further understood by our children.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Theresa's

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

We would like everyone to take an active part in our Collective Worship but we acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We acknowledge that children's entitlement to acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. We will ensure that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity. We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Aims

- To further develop understanding of our mission 'To do the little things well'
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- To explore their own beliefs;
- 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 enrich religious experience;
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- To model to pupils how to plan, lead and enjoy worship through participation and response with an aim for children to be able to plan and lead worship themselves;
- To reinforce prayers which are part of our Catholic tradition;
- To reinforce positive attitudes;
- To participate fully;
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To work with the Archdiocese of Liverpool and other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Through Collective Worship experiences we aim to develop the *skills and attitudes* of:

- reverence
- respect
- contemplation
- reflection
- interpretation
- empathy
- meditation
- prayer
- planning and delivering Collective Worship

Organisation

We believe that Collective Worship at St Theresa's should reflect the needs of our children. Our children take part in a range of acts of Collective Worship ranging from whole school, key-stage or class acts. However the Collective Worship is conducted, it is important to us that our children take part in acts of Collective Worship on a daily basis.

Every Monday, the whole school gather together in the hall to take part in Collective Worship that is lead by upper key stage two. The children work alongside a member of staff who has received training from the Archdiocese to plan and to lead the worship for the school. This is at the beginning of the whole school Hymn practise.

On a Friday, the school gathers together for whole school Collective Worship in the form of a Mass, Liturgy or 'assembly in the round'. If this is not the case for a particular week, each class will deliver their own Collective Worship based on the whole-school weekly theme. Each class is able to decide where the Collective Worship will best take place. Each form of Collective Worship includes a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Each allows children the opportunity to listen to and to respond thoughtfully to scripture.

In key stage one, class teachers will lead the Collective Worship, encouraging children to participate in reading and joint planning where possible. The planning and delivery of Collective Worship will be modelled to the children in the earlier year groups but as the children become older the responsibility to regularly plan and lead collective worship will be passed over to the children, with the class teacher acting as a facilitator within a supportive role. This progression occurs as the academic year passes.

Length, time and pace

We are aware that we have to fulfil a statutory amount of teacher-pupil contact time namely, 22½ hours for infants and 23½ hours for juniors. Collective Worship is not included in this time. The length of time is dependent upon the age of the children (1 minute per each year of the child's age).

Composition

At present, the staff work together in our meeting time to plan the week's Collective Worship sessions based on the whole school weekly theme. The themes are taken from the Church's Liturgical Year, Seasons and Feasts booklet. Staff and children also have the option to choose to use an A3 laminate planning board and a set of resource cards (labelled Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth) to plan and lead collective worship or to use a Microsoft Word version of the planner (Please see appendix.) Scripture is taken from recommendations in the Church's Liturgical Year, Seasons and Feasts booklet provided by the Archdiocese, the Come and See scheme of work or God's Story books. We believe that children will become familiar with the scripture in this way. The children are also introduced to a range of prayers which they are expected to learn, dependent upon their age.

There are a range of resources available to staff and children including but not limited to music, candles, pebbles, petals, shells, glass beads, velvet and chiffon cloths. Hymns or reflective music are chosen to reflect the theme of the Mass or class assembly and weekly Hymn practises take place. Throughout the year we replenish stocks and buy new items.

When planning for Collective Worship, the pro forma provided by the Archdiocese is used (please see appendix) which also provides the structure that we use when carrying out our collective worship sessions.

Focal Points

Every class will have suitable focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point should be treated with reverence. We have a range of artefacts and resources available for Collective Worship which staff and children can choose to use.

Planning the year

When planning the year the co-ordinator and SLT will think carefully about the inclusion of the following :-

- Holidays
- Saint Days
- Feasting for Festivals
- World Faiths
- National and world events

Involvement of local religious groups

We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

Involvement of parents

Parents will be invited to attend Friday assemblies and all Masses and liturgies.

Friday Assembly

The assembly on Friday is an occasion when the whole school meets to share Collective Worship together; this is an opportunity for the school to celebrate a particular time of year, occasion or a class assembly. The successes and achievements of individual pupils either in or out of school are celebrated and rewarded.

Training

New members of staff receive induction training from the Collective Worship coordinators and staff meetings are held to review Collective Worship and also to introduce any updates. Once a year Collective Worship is reviewed as a staff and any amendments to the policy are made.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure Collective Worship takes place in the school;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated Equalities governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- ensure that daily Collective Worship takes place in the school;
- nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the organisation and development of this policy but is aware that teachers cannot be directed to conduct collective worship;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the coordinator

The coordinator will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- work closely with the Headteacher and the nominated governor;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises regarding;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- undertake risk assessments when required;
- review and monitor;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of school personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Role of pupils

Pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- during collective worship time, be:
 - an active participant (whether in planning and leading or response)
 - reverent and respectful
 - calm and reflective
 - able to behave in an appropriate manner
 - quiet, thoughtful and able to listen carefully
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher or child/ren leading Collective Worship
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys.

Children should be fully participant in all aspects including gather, listen, respond, and go forth.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the Collective Worship co-ordinators and will be reviewed annually by the Governing body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the staff two years from the date below.

Signed Fr. P. Swanson (Chair of Governors)

Date 3.9.19

Appendix



St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Planner

CLASS:	LEADER:	DATE:
<p>GATHER to hear the word of God</p>		
<p>LISTEN to the word of God</p>		
<p>RESPOND to the word of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- reflect- pray- sing- action		
<p>GO FORTH with a mission from the word of God</p>		