

St Alban's Catholic Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Title:	Collective Worship Policy
Policy Agreed:	April 2016
Next Review:	April 2018

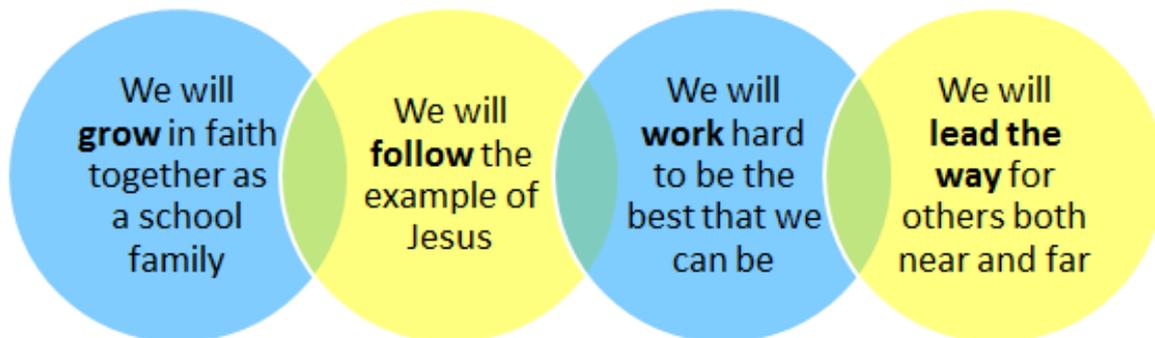
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1. MISSION STATEMENT

The new mission statement for St. Alban's was created by the children, staff, parents and governors of the school.

St. Alban's Catholic Primary School MISSION STATEMENT



St Alban's Catholic Primary School is a Christian community embracing a partnership between the school, home, and parish. It offers to each member the opportunity to grow in knowledge of the Father through Jesus His Son with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, fostered through prayer, worship and awareness of the scriptures.

We believe that every individual is uniquely created and loved by God and therefore has a right to be part of a community where each member is valued and respected for their own worth irrespective of race, colour, creed or ability. The children will be helped to appreciate that they are members of God's wider world in its richness and diversity.

Our Curriculum provides a Catholic Christian setting in which all children have an equal opportunity to grow in understanding and in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.

2. THE NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In keeping with our Mission Statement above, 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.

3. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

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, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

4. 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.

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 ethos of our school.

5. AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- 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 develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- 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.

6. PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- 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.

7. TIMETABLE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Gospel Assembly	Class collective worship	Class Assembly, Class Mass or class collective worship	Singing Assembly (Collective worship and hymn practise)	Whole school Assembly

8. PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship
- involving consultation with the E.P.R Co-ordinator, staff and with reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead 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 around 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.
- **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 children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

9. EUCHARIST and non-Eucharistic Services

Whole school masses are celebrated at the beginning of the school year, harvest festival, St Alban's Feast day and to celebrate all who are leaving in July. Y4 attend mass at St Alban's Cathedral. All classes join the parish daily mass during the year.

Non-Eucharistic services are held during Advent and on Ash Wednesday. Prayer Services are held before school during Advent and Lent and are open to all children, parents and staff. Year 3 leads a Way of the Cross service for the school in Lent. Each class in KS2 does the Stations of the Cross during the week nearest to Holy Week. Each class visits the House of Prayer for a class liturgy in the Autumn term.

During the academic year, each class in the school has the opportunity to prepare and deliver a class assembly. These assemblies are presented to the whole school community with parents from the class invited to attend.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The school's provision of worship is evaluated by the R.E. Co-ordinator, SMT and governors to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

11. RESOURCES

Teacher resources, assembly books, assembly plan are located in the staffroom.

In each classroom, the children have access to a range of resources including:

- Cloths in the colours of the Liturgical year
- Candles and incense
- A variety of objects and artefacts e.g. stones, shells, statues
- Music/CDs

12. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure that every child can participate in acts of collective worship to the best of their ability.

13. THE ROLE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The R.E. Co-ordinator is also the co-ordinator for collective worship.

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

The R.E. Co-ordinator is also responsible for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship. This task involves:

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the Headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

The R.E. Co-ordinator will also:

- Communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Lead and organise in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attend appropriate in-service courses and report back
- Report to and consult with the governors and Headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Act as consultant to colleagues
- Encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicate with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaise with the parish priest
- Liaise with other school co-ordinators at termly, Deanery meetings.
- Liaise with the Diocesan RE Centre at DABCEC
- Evaluating existing resources and purchase new ones when required. This might include: visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

14. POLICY MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, together with the RE. Governor and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.