

St. Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy

The nature of Collective Worship

Christ and the Gospel values are at the centre of all we do.

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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness to the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, 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 St Robert Southwell School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring Collective Worship takes place rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher and religious education subject leader.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School.

Worship in St Robert Southwell is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We aim to educate pupils to the experience of worship and liturgy but it must be a gradual process that seeks to involve them actively in ways suited to their age and stage of personal development.

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.

The aims of Collective Worship

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when referring to 'Collective Worship' in schools. Collective Worship is the term used in legislation but in the Catholic context the terms 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are more familiar

We believe that Collective Worship in St Robert Southwell 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 enrich the religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the 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'

Principles

All Acts of Worship will:

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

All liturgy will include:

- Gathering
- Listening
- Responding
- Going Forth

Timetabled Acts of Worship

Monday	Prayer and liturgy led by the headteacher. Separate KS1 and KS2 gatherings. Themes will be related to the liturgical year, sacramental programmes and various faith traditions.
Tuesday	Class led assemblies which celebrate the work done in the classrooms. A short liturgy is always included. Parents of those children leading the assembly are welcomed. When there is a week without a class led assembly, the headteacher organises a short liturgy and a hymn practice.
Wednesday	Class based liturgy organised by the class teacher and pupils on a theme relevant to the pupils. In KS1&2 the pupils are encouraged to organise their own liturgy based on the Wednesday Word.
Thursday	Separate Prayer and Liturgy for KS1 and KS2 Staff take turns to organise and deliver liturgy on a designated theme (usually based on the 'Come and See', EPR topic for that week or the liturgical calendar)
Friday	Whole school assembly organised and delivered by the headteacher. A short liturgy (liturgical calendar, C&S, EPR) leads into a celebration of that week's achievements.

Assemblies are an experience of Worship and can be presented in a variety of forms. They are prayerful and encourage an openness to God. All assemblies begin with the Sign of the Cross, lighting of a candle and include some element of prayer, scripture and praise.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a termly liturgy/assembly planner
- Through displays, prayer and hymn sheets, photographs etc, class books.

Monitoring and Evaluating

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all the pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Each class teacher is expected to resource their class 'Holy Corner' with appropriate key words and artefacts relating to the current topic.

Other resources which are available to the whole school at all times are kept and displayed on shelves at the end of the school hall.

Resources for class or whole school masses and liturgies such as candles, chalices, purificators etc. are stored in the cupboard at the rear of the staffroom.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated by the whole school in the school hall.

We aim to have at least two whole school masses per term these include:

- Welcome Mass for all those who are new to the school – September
- Advent Mass
- Mass of the new spring term
- Mass to celebrate St Robert Southwell's feast day - February
- Mass of the Risen Christ – April
- First Communion Mass in School June
- Leavers Mass - July

If the availability of a priest allows, class masses may take place.

In KS1 the 'Liturgy of the Word' rather than the Eucharist is celebrated once a term. During these liturgies the children are all required to take part in a drawing, writing or physical activity.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

- opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship
-

Appendix 1

Worship Planning Sheet

Gathering together

Action / Response to the Word

A ritual or movement that fits the theme in which everyone can join (e.g. Shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, reflection etc.)

Mission / Going forth

The sending out from the celebration giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Resources

Appendix 2

Prayer Experiences

Pupils are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer, which are developed in ways which are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Type:	Example:
Praying the psalms	<i>'I thank you for the wonder of my being'</i> [Psalm 139]
Traditional prayers	<i>Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary</i>
Repetitive prayer [mantra]	<i>'Jesus, I love you', repeated several times, slowly</i>
Meditation	<i>Scripture reflection with use of imagination</i>
Bodily prayer	<i>raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting</i>
Prayer of the heart	<i>stillness to listen to God: 'Be still and know that I am God.'</i>
Contemplation	<i>looking at trees, a sunset, an icon etc.</i>
Gestures	<i>the sign of the cross, the sign of peace</i>
Hymns	<i>traditional and modern hymns</i>
Music	<i>listening to quiet, reflective music</i>
Litanies	<i>For all creation: Thanks be to God</i>
Processions	<i>Gospel procession with sung 'alleluia'</i>
Prayer services and liturgies	<i>formal and spontaneous prayer using holy water, candles, incense and other symbols</i>
Celebrations	<i>prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done</i>

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and religious education subject leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

RE Subject Leader Lisa Willsher 2018

Review Date: Summer 2019

