

ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission Statement:

'We see the light of Jesus in those we work, play and pray with every day.

We give thanks to God for our wonderful family.

Like St. Teresa, we always do the little things well.'

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

Legal Requirements:

Schools are required to provide the opportunity for all pupils to participate in a daily act of worship.

The word *assembly* denotes a different activity from an act of collective worship. They may both form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

An assembly, which consists of simply saying a prayer does not fulfil the requirement for collective worship.

The act of worship does not form part of curriculum time and should not be merged into Religious Education.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of the School:

At Saint Teresa's we support the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religions 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.

Collective Worship will be an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain and will be more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

The 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 something of their own beliefs.
- To experience a sense of belonging and share community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values.

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- To enrich religious experience.
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To take time out to "wonder at", to come to terms with, to "appreciate"

Principles:

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- give honour and glory to God.
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- give children good liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and background so as to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible and relevant for the particular grouping of children.
- be short and appropriately paced.
- be simple and contain a variety of experiences and settings.

Assemblies:

At the end of each "Come and See" topic, classes and or year groups will hold a celebration or assembly. These assemblies, like all celebrations, are carefully planned - notes and resources can be found in the "Come and See" teachers' section.

Collective Worship

- KS1 have a Collective Worship on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- KS2 have a Collective Worship on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday
- House meeting once a half term where a Collective Worship is held
- Friday parish Mass attended by a KS2 class
- Lunchtime rosary sessions eg during the month of May
- Lenten/Advent reflections
- Year 6 retreat to the Briars

Whole School Celebrations:

Feast Days:

Mass is celebrated in school or in Church on Holydays of Obligation, selected Feast Days and also each month (see yearly plan) Mass is organised by the RE Coordinator in consultation with the Parish Priest and staff.

Children participate in the Mass through song, readings, prayers, serving on the altar and welcoming visitors as they arrive to join the celebration of Mass.

Staff should ensure that the children are prepared for these celebrations by sharing the readings to be used in the Mass and by teaching the children, age related information about the Mass.



Harvest Festival:

During this season, the school raises money for CAFOD. As a school, the CAFOD resources are used to form the basis of liturgy and to encourage the children to begin to realise and accept their responsibility towards their neighbours.

Christmas / Advent:

The school celebrates this season by focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

- Daily reflections take place following the stories of the Jesse Tree, tracing the ancestry of Jesus. Symbols from each story are hung by the children on the Christmas Tree.
- The above liturgies are led by the children, whenever possible, under the guidance of the class teacher.(The initial reflection is led by the school Chaplaincy Team)
- Travelling Nativity Sets - there are two sets per class. These are sent home each day, during Advent, with a different child in the class. The children are encouraged to pray with their families using the reflections given and to complete the "Class Travelling Crib Diary".
- Advent Mass is celebrated as a school to mark the beginning of Advent
- Fundraising- as a school, a charity is decided upon and the children are encouraged to support this as part of their Advent preparations
- Nativity plays - each year group presents a Christmas "assembly" for parents and visitors, this is based on the true meaning of Christmas.
- Carol concerts - the school choir sing at Saint Teresa's Church Carol Concert on a Sunday afternoon in December.

Lent / Easter

During the last 2 weeks of term all members of staff are reminded to ensure that the stories relevant to Holy Week are covered with the children.

- Each year group presents a short assembly/liturgy which together tells the events which take place during Holy Week. Staff together decide which year group is to present which day of Holy Week.
- Class Liturgies based around "The Weaving of the Cross" take place throughout the season of Lent. These again are led by the children in each class.
- Mass is celebrated in church to mark the Lenten season.
- Fundraising - The school raises money for CAFOD during Lent, see CAFOD website.

The Chaplaincy Team

At St. Teresa's we have a KS1 and KS2 chaplaincy Team.

KS1 meetings take place every Thursday lunchtime and KS2 after school on a Thursday

The Chaplaincy Team are encouraged to be involved in

- organising fundraising and responding to natural disasters,
- leading liturgies,
- auditing class prayer corners
- auditing Collective Worship
- auditing resources
- interviewing pupils

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- Evaluating Mass/Collective Worship

Chaplain

The Chaplain is shared with our family of Catholic Schools and is at St Teresa's one and a half days a week.

The Chaplain leads Collective worships for F2, KS1 and KS2

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