



St Teresa's Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

We see the light of Jesus in the eyes of those we work, play and pray with every day. We give thanks for our wonderful family. Like St Teresa, we always try to do the little things well

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. When we celebrate through collective worship we give 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.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.' (Rev M. Stock 2005)

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.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be included under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

At St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy, responsibility for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. 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 will 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, within the Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Worship in St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the daily Catholic tradition.

Collective worship considers the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- 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;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.



The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit ☒ To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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 liturgical prayer opportunities in St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- 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.
- Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

At St Teresa's Catholic Voluntary Academy liturgical prayer themes are planned following the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates, for example Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week and The Harvest and they may be guided by the themes of the Bishop's Mission. All liturgical prayer follows the same sequence: gather, Word, response and mission. A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Parish and parents are invited to participate in celebrations wherever possible.



The timetable of Collective Worship is as follows:

Day	Session	Purpose	Time	Venue
Monday	Whole school liturgical Prayer School council, eco team and chaplaincy team leadership Class Mass rota	Based on the Gospel readings of the weekend Mass with the parish community	Whole school 2.40 Each class-see timetable 9.30	Hall St Teresa's church
Tuesday	Chaplain led liturgical prayer Rota for each class to lead	Based on the extra-ordinary calendar	Whole school 2.40	Hall
Wednesday	Class based liturgical prayer Pupil led planning, delivery and evaluation	Based on scripture from the week	Each class 2.30	Classroom
Thursday	Hymn practise liturgical prayer Pupils choice of hymns to fit with the upcoming Mass, season or events.	To worship through hymns, Taizé and prayer	KS2 2.40	Hall
Friday	Good Work liturgical prayer House point captain and school council leadership	To celebrate pupil achievements from the week	KS2 9.05am EYFS and KS1 9.30am	Hall

Throughout the year, this timetable may change, for example, during Advent and Lent the school holds reflection days to highlight the extra importance of these key times in the Churches liturgical year.

Our School Chaplains leads liturgical prayer every week on Tuesday afternoons. They work with a specific year group each week on a rota, completing retreat style activities focused on scripture and include reflection, music and prayer.

During class-based liturgical prayer, children use the 'See, Hear, Think, Do' planning grid and are supported by the Let Us Pray 2gether resources where appropriate. Like in all liturgical prayer opportunities, the child-led liturgy should follow the standard sequence: gather, Word, response, mission. After leading liturgical prayer, the children keep a record of this in their collective worship folder. Children participate in an evaluation session in order to create further depth and opportunities next time their turn to plan comes around.

Roles and expectations of the children when planning collective worship

Children should be able to:

EYFS	Create a prayerful focus ready for the liturgy, choosing appropriate items to display (from a selection prepared by the teacher).
Key Stage 1	Give clear reasons for the items they have chosen to display on the prayer space focus. Select an appropriate reading (from a selected set). Be involved in choosing the music Follow the 'gather, Word, response and Mission' with support. Ideas may be brief and may require the facilitator to expand upon them.



Key Stage 2	Plan a well sequenced liturgy, including all essential aspects. Develop greater creativity, particularly within the 'gather' and 'response' section, as they progress through KS2. Select meaningful biblical extracts, carefully linked to the theme. Consider and make links with the school's wider community and parish. Make links with current affairs and the Bishop's themes of encounter, discipleship and missionary discipleship wherever possible.
-------------	--

Please see our liturgical prayer progression map to see the breakdown of skills and targets across the school.

Staff prayer

Staff prayer takes place each Wednesday morning, when all school staff members come together in prayer. Each week, a different member of staff is responsible for leading the prayer session. This is a special few moments in the school week where staff members are encouraged to develop their own faith and spirituality, no matter what their faith background. Through prayer, staff members take time to reflect upon aspects of home and school life and are reminded of how unique our school community are, nourished by God at the centre.

Recording

Chaplain-led liturgical prayer is planned and evaluated weekly. Copies of the planning and evaluation are kept in the chaplaincy folder.

Class based liturgical prayer takes place weekly, and planning and evaluation sheets are kept by the class teacher in the collective worship file.

School Masses are planned and evaluated, copies are kept in the hall folder.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Liturgical prayer is evaluated using the template sheets supplied by NRCDYS. Class based liturgical prayer is monitored throughout the year, more frequently upon request where teachers feel they would value support.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the current SEF/Action plan.

Resources

Each class has a Let Us Pray 2gether, which is accessible to staff members and children. Included in the class resources are liturgical cloths (green, white, red and purple) representing the colours of the liturgical year; crucifix, crosses, rosary beads, candles, pictures (e.g. images of Mary, the Holy Spirit...) and a variety of different resources to be used in collective worship (pebbles, chalk, mirrors etc.).

All classes have a Let Us Pray 2gether box which holds the resources put together by the NDCYS to support pupil-led planning and delivery. Children must have full access to a variety of resources and be encouraged to use resources from the indoor and outdoor environment when planning and leading liturgical prayer, in order to promote awe and wonder.



All classes follow the ordo from the NDCYS and use the weekly word to base liturgical prayer planning around. It also supports staff and pupils with important dates within the church's calendar.

The learning environment

Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment. Rev M Stock, 2005

From the moment children, parents, members of our school community and friends / visitors come in to our school, they are greeted with a focal point which reflects our school ethos and values. In each classroom and throughout the school, focal points will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos alive in our school, vividly reminding all who work, play and pray together here that we are walking hand in hand with God.

Retreats

Year 6 children visit The Briars Residential Youth Centre (Crich, Derbyshire) in the Autumn term. Children recognise that they are growing emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically, and are reminded during this retreat that they can grow stronger with God in their heart. The children are given opportunities to deepen their faith and speak proudly about it, without fear of others' and peer pressure.

Retreat days take place termly throughout the year. They are planned by the RE lead to develop spirituality, different prayer styles and provide opportunities for quiet reflection based on liturgical themes, Come and See topics and Diocesan initiatives.

One Life is also a resource used regularly at St Teresa's, particularly at important times in the church's year, for example, the Advent music calendar and Lent virtual music retreat.

Faith in Action days are planning termly to focus on the Catholic Social Teaching Principles, supported by the quality resources provided by Cafod, including interactive resources and visitors into school.

Further opportunities

We take every opportunity to engage with groups within the local community, in order to share prayers and offer Jesus' love and friendship beyond our school building. Some examples of this are:

Each year group from EYFS-Year 5, lead their own Christmas Nativity, telling the story of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is exceptionally well attended and a wonderful opportunity for our school and Parish community to gather together to celebrate the joy of His birth.

Feast Days, Holy Days and special times in the year are always celebrate with a Mass either in the school hall or parish church, in which parishioners are invited to attend. Attendance is excellent and refreshments are server afterwards to provide the opportunity for members of our parish to spend some time with our school friends and families.

Choral speaking performances happen termly, in which children learn, rehearse and perform a poem for our school community.



Our school council has strong links with the care home, sending Christmas cards and visiting the members to reach out to those in our community who may be lonely or vulnerable.

We are part of the Diocesan music project and share in concerts for the Diocesan community held at the Cathedral.

We sing for local groups in our parish e.g. Little Lambs & care homes We produce videos at key times in the churches' year e.g. advent & Lent and these are displayed on the school and Church's website.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations are of highest importance at St Teresa's. School masses are held regularly throughout the school year and children are given the opportunity to attend weekday mass at St Teresa's Church on a rolling programme. Opportunities for children to plan and participate in school masses are maximised. Wherever possible, parents and members of the school and parish community are warmly invited.

A sample Mass timetable is:

Month	Theme	Year group to plan and lead
September	New School Year	Year 5
1 st October	St Teresa Feast Day	Year 4
1 st November	Feast of All Saints	Chaplaincy team
December	Advent	Year 6
January	New Year and Epiphany	Year 2
Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Chaplaincy team
March	Lent	Year 5
May	Feast of the Ascension	Chaplaincy team
June	St Peter and Saint Paul and FHC Mass	Year 3
July	Leavers Mass	Year 6

Children in Year 3 will be supported through prayer and encouragement as they prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Eucharist. Preparation classes for children and their parents take place in the Parish. The Holy Communion Mass is well attended by staff from the school, supporting the pupils on their special day. When each child has celebrated this



wonderful sacrament, we invite them and their families to celebrate mass again all together in school with a celebration afterwards in which parents and families are invited. Children relish the opportunity to wear their special clothes, receive Jesus again and share a meal of thanksgiving together with their friends.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Assisting the governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the governors of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Religious Education (David Quinn)

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading



Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Head Teacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years, as detailed below. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Helen Kenworthy

RE lead

Headteacher

Ann Glynne-Jones

Date: November 2025

To be reviewed: November 2027