

# SS Peter and Paul RC Primary School



## Policy for Collective Worship

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### **Mission Statement**

***We would like everyone involved in the life of our school to explore and promote God's values so that everything that happens in our school demonstrates God's love for everyone.***

***Together with the Spirit we will provide an oasis where every child matters.***

***Every person in our school is made by God and deserves to be respected and loved.***

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

'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.'<sup>1</sup>

### **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 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.

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 Come and See RE curriculum.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

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

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

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.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

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

- To contemplate 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 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 Acts of Worship in SS Peter and Paul RC School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop pupils' skills that enable them to help prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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.<sup>2</sup> In order to do this, celebrations will be:
  - kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
  - short and appropriately paced ( children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2 );
  - simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

### **Planning, content and celebration**

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the 'Statements to live by' from 'Nurturing Human Wholeness', the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day. Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Staff prayer will be celebrated during the morning meeting and at the beginning of staff meetings.

### **Collective Worship in SS Peter and Paul RC School takes place as follows:**

Monday: Whole School Collective Worship

Tuesday: Whole School Pastoral Care Group Worship OR Class Based Worship

Wednesday: Class Based Collective Worship/KS2 Mass

Thursday: Whole School Celebration Assembly and Collective Worship

Friday: Cheer assembly and Collective Worship

Each class holds a Liturgy once a year according to the timetable and when possible they are attended by Fr Robert Kinlan (Parish Priest.) Each Key Stage 2 class will lead at least one mass during the school year.

Whole School Liturgies and masses will take place throughout the year e.g. Welcome Liturgy, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Advent, etc.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded in the self-evaluation (SEF48) evidence file. Each year group is to record details of Collective Worship and provide evidence of Collective Worship to show pupil participation to show progression.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship will be monitored through collection of evidence from each year group on a termly basis and annual observations.

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

### **Resources**

A range of resources are available and these resources are stored in the classrooms or in the cupboards in the staff room. Each class has planning cards and formats to use with the children.

*(Appendix 4)*

## **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'.<sup>3</sup>

Sacred Spaces in each classroom and throughout the school 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.

## **Voluntary Worship and Retreats**

We have established a Prayer Garden and Forest School which can be used for quiet prayer and reflection. Opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross are presented during Lent.

## **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the **'Directory for Masses with Children'** as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

## **The Lead for Collective Worship**

The Lead for Collective Worship is Maria Butt who liaises closely with the Religious Education Subject leader, Louise Lawson.

*(A model job description is also included in Appendix 3.)*

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Lead 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 as will the Parish Priest.

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

Year Group:

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Date:

Focus	Comments
<b>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have the children been involved in the planning?</li> <li>Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast?</li> </ul>	
<b>Structure (If Liturgy)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified?</li> <li>How did children gather?</li> <li>Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently?</li> <li>How did children respond to the Word?</li> <li>Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy?</li> </ul>	
<b>Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child or adult led?</li> <li>Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading?</li> </ul>	
<b>Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically?</li> <li>Was it a prayerful experience?</li> </ul>	
<b>Creativity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How creative was the Act of Worship?</li> <li>Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience?</li> </ul>	
<b>Prayer Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age?</li> </ul>	
<b>Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts?</li> </ul>	
<b>ICT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction?</li> </ul>	
<b>Agreed areas for development</b>	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...

Appendix 2



Collective Worship planning Sheet

Theme..... Year group/ House/ Class.....

<p><b>Gathering Together</b> Environment, mood, seating, music etc</p> <p>Focus:</p>  <p>Music:</p>  <p>Introduction:</p>
<p><b>The Word of God</b></p>

**Action/ Response to the word of God**

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 3

### 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.

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Example:</b>
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>

## Appendix 4

### Resources for Collective Worship in Catholic Primary Schools

#### Books

**A First Look- Prayer.** Lois Rock. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) ISBN: 0745937519

**And the Children Pray:** Janaan Manternach. Ave Maria Press (1989) ISBN: 0877934126

**Assemblies for liturgical seasons & school occasions, Volume One :** Jude Groden and Christ O'Donnell :McCrimmon :0-85597-615-2

**Celebrating the Mass.** Bishop's Conference. Catholic Truth Society (2005) ISBN: 1860822908

**Children's Daily Prayer::** Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Liturgy Training Publications : 1-57854-375-1 ( Published annually for the beginning of the academic year).

**Classroom Prayer Services for the Days of Advent and Lent :** Gwen Costello :Twenty-third Publications : 0-89622-737-5

**Don't just do something - Sit there** (Developing children's spiritual awareness) : Mary K. Stone. An RE-ME Enquiry Service Publication : ISBN 1-897-805-01-2

**Enjoying the Mass.** Joan Brown. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039736

**Fifty Masses with Children :** Francesca Kelly : Columba Press : 1-85607-043-3

**Guided Meditations for Children 1,2 and 3 – How to teach Children to Pray using Scripture:** Jane Reehorst, B.V.M.

**In Joyful Hope – Advent Prayer and Worship in the Catholic Primary School :** Carmel Hanley fcj and Rita Tunstall : available from Sr Carmel FCJ, 214 Barton Road, Stretford M32 8DP

**Looking Beyond:** Jill Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN 1840039841

**Masses with Young People.** Sr Jude Groden and Father Christopher O'Donnell. McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd (2006) ISBN 0855976802

**Multi- Sensory Prayer.** Sue Wallace. Scripture Union Publishing (2000) ISBN: 1859994652

**New Ideas for Creative Prayer.** Judith Merrell. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN 1859995896

**Our Poems and no messin'.** Margaret Cooling. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN: 1859995896

**Poems and Prayers for a Better World :** compiled by Su Box and Felicity Henderson : Lion : 0-7459-3886-8

**Prayer of a Fragile World.** Carol Watson. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) IBSN: 0745937055

**Praying with Children – Some ways and means:** Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-546-6

**Seasons of Celebrations – Prayers, Plays and Projects for the Church Year :** Patricia Mathson : Ave Maria Press :0-87793-566-1

**Spirit of the Season:** a free to use/copy classroom resource : at [www.liturgy.demon.co.uk](http://www.liturgy.demon.co.uk)

**Spiritual Garments.** Julie McCann. Decani Books (2006) ISBN: 1900314177

**The Lord Be With You – Introducing the Mass to Children:** Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-579-2

**Volume Two – Assemblies for Feasts, Mary and the Saints:** 0-85597617-9

**The Welcome Table – Planning Masses with Children** ( Contains the complete text of the Church’s *Directory for Masses with Children*) : Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Archdiocese of Chicago. Liturgy Training Publications : 0-930467-38-8

**Ways to Pray with Children** (Prayers, Services and Activities): Barbara Ann Bretherton. Twenty-Third Publications : 0-89622-670-0

**Welcome: Celebrations for young children for the Church’s year:** Jenny Pate. McCrimmons: 085597642-X

**Whispering in God’s Ear.** Alan Macdonald. Lion Hudson Plc (2004) ISBN: 0745936725

**You’re Special.** Julia Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039841

## **Prayer and Worship Resources**

Prayer Themes & Guided Meditations	B.A. Bretherton
With the Word of God	J. Groden & C. O'Donnell
Directory on Children’s Masses	Congregation for Divine Worship
Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children	“
Marking the Liturgical Year	Diocese of Portsmouth
With Hearts and Minds	Bishops’ Conference

## Musical Resources

**Agape:** Marty Haugen

**Alive-O:** Veritas

**All Are Welcome:** Marty Haugen

**A Year of Celebration – Songs for Children :** McCrimmon

0-855975-44-X Melody/Guitar Edition

0-85597-552-0 Congregational copy

*Revised edition contains an index cross-referring to the 'Here I Am' programme.*

**Calling the Children :** Chris Walker : OCP Publications

Includes a set of Eucharistic Acclamations.

**Celtic Mystic Moods:** Seamus Byrne

**Children at Heart :** Paul Inwood : OCP Publications : 0-915531-895

Includes Acclamations for the Word, Dismissal Chants for Children's' Liturgy of the Word, several Eucharistic Prayer settings and a bereavement song for children. The cassette and CD also include all the music without voices which can be used for accompaniment purposes while learning the music.

**Christ Be Our Light:** Bernadette Farrell

**Classic FM:** Various Artists

**Come All You People - 40 shorter songs for worship :** John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

**Dreamcatcher:** Secret Garden

**Fire of Love:** Margaret Rizza

**Fountain of Life:** Margaret Rizza

**God Beyond All Names:** Bernadette Farrell

**How Can I Keep From Singing 1 & 2:** CJM Music

**Jubilate:** Taize

**John Burland Music Collection**

**Kidscourse :** Kevin Mayhew, (K) : 1-84003-310-X

**Light The Fire:** Liam Lawton

**Quiet Time:** Frank Leto

**Rejoice and Sing:** CJM Music

**Rejoice One and Rejoice Two – Songs for Celebration :** Collins : 0-00-711776-0 (One)

0-00-711777-9 (Two)

*CD's to accompany 'Here I Am'.*

**Restless Is The Heart:** Bernadette Farrell

**Resurrexit:** Taize

**Sacred Story:** Liam Lawton

**Share the Light :** Bernadette Farrell : OCP Publications

Songbook, ref. 111549TC

Cassette, ref. 111550TC

CD set, ref. 111551TC

*The CD includes videos of some of the songs using American and British Sign Language, playable on a computer.*

**Shepherd Moons:** Enya

**Someone's Singing Lord :** A&C Black (SSL) : 0-7136-1730-6

**Songs for Everyday Assembly :** Out of the Ark Music : 0-951911-61-9

**Songs of Sanctuary:** Adiemus

**The Celts:** Enya

**The Complete Come and Praise :** BBC, (CCP) : 0-563-34580-2

**The Healer:** Seamus Byrne

**There is One Among Us** –more shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

**Walking By Faith:** David Haas & Robert W. Piercy

**Watch & Pray:** Taize

**With You Always:** Taize



**Any classical compilations can be bought quite cheaply in music shops.**

**This list is by no means exhaustive. It gives some good examples. Continue to build your own store of resources.**



## Appendix 5

### **The Role of the Lead 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'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. modelling different prayer styles through CPD

#### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher 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 and headteacher 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 Education

#### **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

#### **Planning group**

- Consideration is to be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group. Currently, regular meetings take place between the coordinator, the subject coordinator and the Parish Priest to discuss Collective Worship in school and church.