

Celebration of the Word Policy



INTRODUCTION

In the life of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. The religious growth of the children will be in a happy, stimulating, secure and caring Catholic Ethos. Our R.E. curriculum actively contributes towards the aims specified in the school's Mission Statement Aim which is to create a harmonious Catholic community where each child is helped to achieve their full potential as a valued individual. 'Collective Worship is at the heart of this.

AIMS

St Mary's RC Primary is committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

The education of the whole person

The education of all

The Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Collective Worship within St Mary's offers opportunities:

- to consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- to have an awareness and develop an understanding of our Global Family
- to explore Christian values
- to have an awareness of and explore the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

PRINCIPLES/PLANNING

Whole school Celebration of the Word every Monday

Whole school Celebration assembly Friday

Class Celebration of the Word each week

Class prayers daily – Morning, Afternoon and Grace before and after lunch

All acts of Collective Worship should be planned for while considering the following:

GATHER, LISTEN TO THE WORD, RESPOND and GO FORTH

During 'Collective Worship' we strive to establish a quiet and prayerful atmosphere using appropriate music and candles, etc. We ensure that the 'listen' element has appropriate scripture and that during 'respond' the children are given the opportunity to voice their responses/feelings/prayers. We plan for the themes of Collective Worship by considering the following: Mission Statement/Whole school focuses/ Come and See themes/Caritas /Holy Days and periods of preparation for significant days in the Christian calendar/ SJS Values

Staff must adhere to the Collective Worship Non Negotiables – [see attached sheet](#)

Non – Negotiables – Collective Worship 2025-26

PRAYER RESOURCES TO BE USED TO SUPPORT EVERY PRAYER SESSION

Create a circle as a whole class and everyone to sit within the circle. Play 'Let the children come to me' or similar liturgical song/calming music whilst they gather together – teachers /TAS to sit in the circle. All staff to be involved.

WELCOME

Welcome Team to set up focal area

- The Sign of the Cross

Reference to Mission statement and St Mary's Values – MS AND Values clearly displayed in every classroom/ upper room and hall.

Introduce theme of Collective Worship for the week – This could link with Diocesan resources, the Value of the half term or based on a different topic e.g Lent/ Holy days particular Bible Reading. Teacher to give theme for Liturgy.

- Religious artefacts such as candles, icons, images, crosses or items on a focal area in the middle of the circle
- Projected visual images reflecting the theme or stimulating interest – quiet reflective music

WORD

- A scripture reading (preferably from the reading of the week) FOR little ones teacher may provide BIBLE READING – use this link (https://issuu.com/scandinaviapublishing/docs/etrb_full) really child friendly – simplified version

- A period of silence – we become aware of God's presence

WITNESS

- A quiet moment in which to think about this, with the aid of some questions to reflect -

MISSION

- Sharing of thoughts/ideas if pupils feel able to – pupils may record thoughts/prayers – add to FAITH Journals - MUST GIVE OUT A GO FORTH MISSION -
- Closing prayer/reflection
 - Song/Hymn to finish
- The sign of the Cross