St Basil's Catholic Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Policy and guidelines

'In God's love we learn and succeed by following Jesus'

Introduction

Collective Worship at St. Basil's provides opportunities for staff and children to come together, to worship God. Whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the church and having Christ at its heart. It will take into account, the journey of reconciliation and contemplation 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an experience to which **all can contribute** and from which **all can gain**.

Aims

Through our worship at St. Basil's, we aim to:

- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging to a community with a common ethos and shared values.
- Respond to and celebrate life, by taking time out to 'wonder at', mark as special.
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Enrich the religious experience of all members of the school community.
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- Build a firm foundation for liturgy.

Who?

At St. Basil's:

- **Governors** are responsible for ensuring that school has a current Collective Worship policy.
- The **Headteacher** is a role model for the school community and is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child, each day. (Parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship and in such cases the class teacher will be informed).
- **Class teachers** are responsible for planning and enabling worship to take place daily.
- **Children** will have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship.

Where?

"As a rule, all acts of Collective Worship should take place on the school premises. However, the governing bodies of grant maintained, aided and special agreement schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere, on **special occasions**". (Education Reform Act 1988).

At St. Basil's, Collective Worship will take place:

- Within the classroom.
- In either of the school halls.
- In the open e.g. school grounds, Garden of Hope.
- In the church of St. Basil and All Saints

How?

At St. Basil's a special, calm and prayerful atmosphere should be created for worship through use of music, lighting and organisation. These should be varied across the week.
Collective Worship will be led by:

- The Headteacher / SLT members
- Class teachers
- Children

In order to provide children with quality experiences of Collective Worship, teachers will:

- Ensure that the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age, background and ability of learners. It is recommended that the duration of an act of Worship should be approximately one minute for each year of a child's life.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols etc.
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the **invitation** to pray and worship.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Teachers will use the guidance from the Archdiocese of Liverpool to support all children as they develop their ability to plan and lead worship themselves.

Collective Worship will always follow the liturgical formation of:
Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth

When?

It is a legal requirement that every child must have the opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day. To ensure that Collective Worship is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants, it needs to occur at the most appropriate time for the class/key stage/school.

At St. Basil's:

- Collective worship is shared daily, either in class, as a year group, key stage or whole school.
- On a Monday, Collective Worship is usually celebrated in class and often links to the weekend's Gospel.
- Twice a week, on a Tuesday and Thursday, children in KS1 and KS2 (upper/lower) gather as a phase group and experience worship linked to a specified theme (see strategic planning overview).
- On a Tuesday, Collective Worship will be led by a class teacher within the phase, on a rota basis.
- The theme is then revisited on a Thursday morning, by a group of children who have been guided in planning by a class teacher within the phase and then supported in delivery.
- Early Years Foundation Stage are invited to join in with the Key Stage 1 Collective worship each week during the summer term.
- On specified Wednesday mornings at 9.05am, classes on a rota basis, lead their families and invited participants in school, in worship. Governors and clergy are also welcome to attend.
- On most Friday mornings, the Head teacher and SLT members, lead the whole school in Worship, usually linked to the Gospel that week.
- At the end of each topic in Come and See, the children in each class plan and celebrate a worship to 'Rejoice'! Through class discussion, the children will revisit the learning focuses covered during the topic. They decide upon scripture, music, prayer etc. to best reflect the topic studied. A planner from the 'Come and See' website is used to record the plans.

*At times Collective Worship may take place within an **assembly** gathering, which will last a little longer than a usual act of Collective Worship (See medium term planner). In these instances, the four distinct stages of worship will still be followed within the gathering: Gather, Listen, Respond, and Go Forth.

Planning and Recording

The planning of worship linked to a theme is done with reference to:

- 'Come and See' topics.
- The Church's seasons / significant dates in the liturgical year. For example, highlight the role of Mary in May and October – the two months chosen by the Church.
- The whole curriculum.
- Local, national, world events.

Themes for weekly key stage worship are provided by the subject leader and Head teacher in a strategic overview which is shared at the start of the year.

Scripture is central to Collective Worship. We gather, listen, respond and go forth with the Word of God. This is introduced to the children from an early stage as they are welcomed into our school family. Use will be made of a simple planning sheet, to keep note of themes, leaders and details of the worship. A copy of this planning sheet is attached in the Appendix.

Photographs are sometimes taken as a record of worship taking place, either before or after the worship so that the reverence of the occasion is not spoilt. They are recorded in class/phase presentation books and/or our school website.

Focus Table

A suitable focus should be created related to the theme. (The focus can be a box, chair or a table). The focus could include a drape, candle, relevant artefacts, God's Story or Good News Bible and a cross or crucifix for example.

Resources

Within classes and around school, a variety of resources are available for use in collective worship. This includes different drapes, crosses, candles and relevant artefacts. Each class has a small worship box for use by the children in delivering worship. Material to support the planning/ delivery of worship is also available on the school shared drive (in the Teacher's Share Folder: RE). Guidance is given regularly to staff to provide relevant information, for example the current liturgical colour(s) to use.

Evaluation

Collective Worship will be evaluated by staff and children with reference to the variety of their worship experiences. This will include regular opportunity for discussion between the Co-ordinator/other staff members and children. Feedback to be shared and acted upon where necessary.

Appendix

Planning our Collective Worship Date _____

Name(s) _____

Our theme will be _____

Gather



Listen



Respond



Go Forth

