



# **St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**

## **Prayer & Collective Worship Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

Educate; Create; Witness: Christ At the Centre

We strongly believe that children leaving our school must be well equipped for the future. We aim to honour and maintain the vision and ideals of the founders of our school, who, inspired by their love of Christ, established in the community a centre of learning based upon the teachings of Christ. We aim to educate each other, create community and witness to Christian values.

### **The Nature of Collective Worship (Liturgical Prayer)**

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.'*

### **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 Head Teacher.

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 Prayer & Collective Worship in the Life of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**

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

### **The Aims of Prayer & Collective Worship** Collective Worship in our school 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 acts of worship in our School 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**

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, 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.

At the beginning of each term a timetable of Masses are made available to all staff and parents.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded in teachers' own planning files. Each class has their own collective worship planning file which children compile with their own liturgy planning.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored both formally and informally using Collective Worship monitoring form. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

### **Resources**

#### **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'

Focal points 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.

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

The RE Co-ordinator is also responsible for Collective Worship throughout the school however this is supported by the Head Teacher.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator 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.

Policy Updated: Sept 2024

Review Sept 2026