



# St. Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."*

*Serviam* means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us that it is more blessed to serve than to be served. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

### **Legal Requirements**

The legal requirement is 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 by either 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. In this school, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the headteacher.

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

We endorse the belief that 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.

Worship in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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

We believe that collective worship in our school community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:-

To contemplate the mystery of God;

To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community;

To develop the necessary skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation which will enable our relationships with God to be deepened.

Full participation in our faith will allow us:-

- To grow in spiritual, moral, cultural and liturgical understanding;
- To grow in understanding of our living faith tradition;
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ;
- To examine and reflect upon our own individual faith journeys;
- To develop the skills of prayer.

### **Implementation**

All acts of worship should:-

- Give glory and praise to God;
- Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants;
- Be kept to the point (and brief wherever possible);

- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery;
- Key Stage 2 collective worship takes place on Monday morning, Key Stage 1 takes place on Monday afternoon, Tuesday to Thursday it takes place in class, before or after the regular RE lesson and on Friday the whole school meets. Content will follow the weekend Gospel teachings and other important themes in the media.

Collective worship in our school may follow the pattern or variation of the pattern detailed below:-

**Gathering** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc);

**Word** - a reading from the Scriptures, breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme;

**Action** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc);

**Mission** - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

### **Celebration of the Eucharist**

This takes place at the beginning and end of terms, holy days, celebratory days and in class, church and other occasions.

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

Governors are aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to collective worship, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the school standard framework 1998. It is the overall responsibility of governors, in consultation with the headteacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church. This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school.

The following will be monitored:-

- Time set aside for collective worship;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc;
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship.

Observation and monitoring records should be kept and should form part of the self-review process.

Outcomes of monitoring will be communicated to staff and governors with recommendations for future action.

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship:**

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:-

Formulating a written policy;

Ensuring there is a development plan for collective worship;

Ensuring that collective worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family 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 Catholic teachings;

Organising themes for worship;

Assisting the governors in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship.

### **Communication**

This policy will be communicated to:

All members of the school community;

Parish priests or members of pastoral areas as appropriate;  
New members of staff and will form part of their induction;  
New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship.

**Timetable**

Monday morning – Key Stage 2 assembly, Monday afternoon – Key Stage 1 assembly, Friday Afternoon – whole school Golden Assembly, other days in class at teacher’s discretion when but must take place.

**Headteacher    Review: November 2017**