



# **St Gilbert's R.C. Primary School** **Policy-Collective Worship-September 2017**

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## **Overview**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honor, 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. We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the Teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill 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. As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, 'on a special occasion'.

## **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 more than just a legal requirement - It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

## **Objectives**

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

- To contemplate something of 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 reinforce 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.'

## **Strategies**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. In order to do this, celebrations will be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Timetabled Acts of Worship:



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During each week there will be three assemblies in school when opportunities for greater numbers to worship together will take place. The Key Stage 2 will assemble on Monday morning for 15 minutes the Key Stage 1 on Monday afternoon for 15 minutes, the whole school including the Nursery on Fridays for 30-45 minutes. These assemblies are held in the school hall. The main focus of every beginning and every end of our school day is to be spent in prayer. The Teacher in every class is responsible for organising the opportunity for spiritual devotion. Each class is to have a designated Prayer Table devoted to spiritual enrichment. On each Prayer Table, there should be the following focal points; a green/purple cloth, candle, plant and crucifix. These focal points may change throughout the year in accordance with the liturgical calendar.

Children and staff will pray together at the four major parts of the day, the beginning of the morning, lunchtime (before and after) and at the end of the day for a designated period of collective worship.

The end of day worship time will commence from 3pm on at least three weekdays and is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Way, The Truth and The Life SOW, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship. Staff will introduce the theme and model effective worship to pupils, before inviting them to join in through thoughts, reflections and prayer.

Fr Martin will visit school regularly to share a Class Mass with pupils in Year 2 upwards. These Masses will be led by Fr, with pupils participating in the Liturgy of the Word and Bidding Prayers. Parents and parishioners are informed of these Masses during the Sunday bulletin and are invited to join us.

Fr Martin will also share in regular Whole School Masses based on particular themes throughout the year.

Pupil Chaplains will follow a timetable to deliver child-led liturgies to pupils across KS1 and KS2. These liturgies are planned and delivered using The Wednesday Word as a resource, which will be distributed to pupils to take home and share with parents.

## **Outcomes**

At St Gilbert's RC Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter



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