

# Our Lady's RC Primary School



## Policy for Collective Worship



## Our Lady's Mission Statement

At Our Lady's RC Primary School we want to  
**'know God, love God and serve God'**

**We will try hard to :**

- Learn about the **WORD** of God.
- **WELCOME** everyone into our school as Jesus welcomes us into His family.
- Care about the **WELFARE** of others and help those in need.
- **WORSHIP** God through prayer and praise and use the talents God has given us.
- Be a true **WITNESS** to Jesus by showing everyone that we respect, value and love one another.

**We will try to live like Jesus every day.**

*At Our Lady's, we seek at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ. We remember this when putting our policies into practice.*

### **Aims**

The governors and staff of Our Lady's R.C. Primary School aim to make the school a safe, place where the Gospel values of Our Lord Jesus Christ are taught, lived and experienced, where prayer and celebration are integral to life and where religious growth and development are stimulated within the total curriculum. As Catholic educators we are privileged to fulfil the mission Jesus gave us, 'Go out and teach all nations.'

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

We believe that Christian worship at Our Lady's 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

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

Worship in our school is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition and heritage. It fulfils all legal requirements.

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.

We will foster through daily prayer our personal relationship with God our Father. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayers of silence
- Spontaneous prayers
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayers
- Worship through song

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship; children will be encouraged and given the opportunity to pray at different times of the day.

Collective Worship and prayer will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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 need to 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.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

The governors and staff believe that Collective Worship at Our Lady's aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To think about our growing relationship with God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore our own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit through planned opportunities throughout the year
- 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 celebrate, to wonder at, to come to terms with and to give praise to.

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship at Our Lady's will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its distinctive Catholic nature;
- Develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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. In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be appropriate in content and length to the age and experience of the of the children;
  - be appropriately paced
  - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

## **Planning and Organisation of Collective worship**

Teachers lead children in a planned class collective worship on a weekly basis. This is in addition to their daily prayers. Staff also have the opportunity to observe other members of staff delivering Collective Worship sessions. Chaplaincy will plan and deliver prayer/scripture sessions for the whole school/groups.

## **Features and Format:**

At our school, acts of collective worship include the following features:

- appropriate music for the children to listen to/ reflect
- a focal point with appropriate artefacts and symbols
- scripture or appropriate reading
- opportunity for prayer whether together or silently
- mission to take out with them

## **Celebrating Mass**

We attend Mass at St Alphonsus Church on feast days to celebrate Mass in the community alongside parishioners. Families are encouraged to join us if they can. Opportunities are made at the end of Mass for prayers and reflections and to speak to the priest and learn more about the church. Whole school Masses are also celebrated in school or at church for important times in the Liturgical year or when we have a special celebration wherever possible. For example, start of the school year, Christmas Mass, Ash Wednesday, Ss Peter and Paul, First Holy Communion and Leaver's Mass at the end of the school year.

## **School Assemblies**

Other special assemblies take place throughout the year; Harvest Assemblies, Fundraising Assemblies, Black History Assemblies, Holy Souls, Remembrance Day, Nativity plays, Advent, Carols, Lenten assemblies, Holy Week. These assemblies have a prayer focus and are sometimes led by the Headteacher, members of the SLT, class groups, teachers and pupils.

## **Resources**

A variety of resources including the RE scheme 'Come and See' are available to support collective worship. Each classroom has a box which has relevant resources. Teachers should see the R.E. co-ordinator if they require any other resources.