

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

"Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith"

1 Aims and Purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
 - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - to encourage participation and response;
 - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
 - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
 - to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective Worship

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship may involve all members of a class or all children within the school coming together.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies and collective worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

- 3.1 We hold acts of collective worship in our school every day. A whole school assembly is held on a Monday morning and we also hold a Friday 'Celebrations' assembly. On other days the individual teachers organise collective worship within their own classrooms. Each teacher has a focus area in their classroom and all classrooms use a variety of visual aids to support collective worship.
- 3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and music. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The resources for collective worship are held in a central resource area.
- 3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship and assemblies.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our collective worship and assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and

build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. St. Mary's follows the guidance from the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

4 Right of Withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assemblies and collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

- 4.2** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and Review

- 5.1** It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Signed:

Date: