

St. Luke's Catholic Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Academic Year	Designated Senior Person	Deputy Designated Senior Person	Nominated Governor	Chair of Governors
2014	E Murtagh	M Grealis	Pauline Stitt	Pauline Stitt

Policy Review Dates

Review Date	Changes made	By whom	Date shared with staff
			September 2014

Collective Worship Policy

September 2014

Mission Statement

**As God's family we learn, love and laugh.
Together: love one another, forgive one another,
Work together, play together, worship together,
Be happy together.**

We aim to teach children how to pray and worship by giving them the opportunities, experiences and guidance to develop their special relationship with God.

Our aims and objectives are:

- To recognise each child as unique
- To strive for excellence and fully develop the potential of each child in the school by providing a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in accordance with diocesan policies
- To encourage self-discipline and high level of motivation by providing an ordered, happy and stimulating environment
- To develop an awareness of the school's place in the community by fostering home, school, parish and neighbourhood links
- To show by word and example that the school is an extended family in which individuals are special and where the common good is always a priority
- To give pupils the opportunity to join the parents, staff and Parish praying and celebrating together as a worshipping community
- To introduce pupils to different religious symbols and artefacts and to be aware of the special liturgical colours which characterise these seasons
- To give pupils the opportunity to develop their appreciation of the prayers of the Mass, and learn the responses which enables them to participate in this celebration
- To visit the church regularly to encourage reverence and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, as well as personal, spontaneous, silent reflection and prayer
- To deepen children's experience and understanding of celebrating our faith on a daily basis as a community, through the sharing of readings from Scripture, song, prayer, drama as well as following the sequence of the Mass together

'Striving for excellence – inspired by Christ'

At St Luke's Catholic Primary School we seek to promote the academic, spiritual and personal development of the individual in a happy Christian environment. Central to this are acts of collective worship, which are valued as an opportunity to celebrate our life in Christ and to reflect upon our daily life and the lives of others.

At St. Luke's Catholic Primary School, collective worship is a purposeful time set aside to embrace the essence of our being through prayer, reflection and celebration.

This takes place in the form of whole school and key stage assemblies, whole school masses, whole school and key stage hymn practices and through class prayer and reflection.

Each of these acts of collective worship, provide an opportunity to engage in one or more of the following elements of collective worship: celebration; prayer and reflection; hymns and songs; readings and stories from the bible; gesture and symbolism of a spiritual nature.

Assemblies

There is the opportunity to gather together as a whole school or as a Key Stage at least twice a week. The dynamics of each of these assemblies differ in terms of the way they are presented. The liturgical year provides the focus for teacher led assemblies; that encourages participation in prayer and reflection. Class assemblies provide the opportunity for each class to reflect upon their learning. We focus primarily on the topics taught through our Religious Education Programme 'The Way Truth and Life'. These assemblies are shared with the whole school and parents are invited to attend. Assemblies led by the Headteacher, focus on the Catholic traditions, encouraging prayer and reflection, developing a moral awareness as well as a celebration of our achievements. To ensure continuity and progression and to facilitate the evaluation process, a copy of whole school masses and assembly outlines are kept on file.

Prayer

Prayer is at the centre of our daily lives. Opportunities to pray, both morning and afternoon shape our school day. The aim is that prayer is meaningful to the pupils and therefore class prayers reflect the age and understanding of the pupils. Through Daily collective worship pupils are given the opportunity to share their own prayers, thoughts and intentions. Pupils in Key Stage Two are encouraged to plan and prepare their own meaningful collective worship. Pupils will experience a variety of forms of prayer: Formal, informal, liturgical, reflective, meditative and silent.

The prayer life of our pupils will naturally develop as they progress through the school.

School and Classroom Practice

The hall and each classroom have a prayer focus, together with religious artefacts they are designed to support pupils in their prayer and worship.

In each classroom there will be:

- A daily act of collective worship
- A daily routine in which they gather together to prayer together (morning and afternoon)
- Each class will celebrate the liturgical seasons – altar dressed in the appropriate liturgical colour
- Each class will provide pupils with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer; formal, informal, liturgical, reflective, meditative and silent
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to participate in a range of liturgical celebrations e.g. Penitential Service, Advent Service, Stations of the Cross
- Opportunities to visit the church for collective worship, silent devotional prayer and reflective prayer
- Prayer life will also be guided by the Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
- At St. Luke's the staff pray regularly together, staff meetings are introduced by prayer and reflection. This may take the form of Adoration; Devotion; Intercession; Silent Reflection, Meditation or Thanksgiving
- As a staff we value these opportunities as prayer and reflection enables us to seek guidance; gain strength and patience; support one another and to celebrate and give thanks

Whole School Masses

We gather together as a whole school for the celebration of mass at the beginning and end of each term, and to celebrate feast days. We aim to ensure through this act of collective worship that all pupils from Reception through to Year Six actively participate. We are also keen that this collective worship is shared with our families and parish community. Dates of masses are sent to parents and placed within the parish newsletter and on our school website.

Hymn Practice

Children learn a range of hymns both traditional and modern reflecting the liturgical year and Christian festivals.

Outside Agencies

Guest speakers are also invited into whole school assemblies to enhance our awareness and develop our knowledge and understanding.

Sacramental Programme

Prayer and reflection are central to the Sacramental Programme. The pupils are given the opportunity through the mass of Enrolment, First forgiveness and First Holy Communion to participate in each celebration, sharing their thoughts prayers and intentions. On these occasions we encourage an active involvement of family members. The whole school is also invited to share in the celebration of the children's First Holy Communion.

Inclusion

The school will ensure that all pupils are able to actively participate in the prayer life of our school, in doing so we will:

- Respond to pupils' diverse needs
- Overcome potential barriers to prayer for individuals and/or groups of pupils

Resources

Each Class is equipped with a collective worship box which includes:

Material in each of the liturgical colours

Candles

A holding cross

Images

Artefacts

E M Murtagh

R.E Subject Leader

September 2014