



ST BEDE'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Bede's is a community
Of faith, love and respect
Inspiring us to achieve

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Dated- February 2023

Adopted by St Bede's Governing Committee

Date next reviewed February 2025

Headteacher Signed - T Worrall

Chair of Governors - D Wallace

St Bede's is a community of faith, love and respect - Inspiring us to achieve

Mission Statement

St. Bede's is inspired by the teaching and life of Christ.

We are a family community where every individual is valued and respected.

Our school seeks excellence in teaching and learning, to be inspirational to others through our words and actions.

We achieve our success through hard work and dedication, through tolerance, sharing and fairness.

We are committed to our vision to build respect where each voice is heard and everyone matters.

Let love surround us, love of learning, love of one another, love of all peoples, love of life itself and love of God.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.¹

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.² (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 either by 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, 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 committee has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Committee after consultation with the headteacher.

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² 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 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

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.'

Principles

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.³ 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.

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

How Collective Worship (CW) is organised in St Bede's

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Liturgical Prayer in hall – SLT lead using the Gospel from Sunday as a basis
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff prayers during briefing at 8.30am• Class collective worship – using message from yesterday's whole school CW
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class led whole school Liturgical Prayer with parental body invited – using the Gospel message and Statement to Live By as a stimulus• Class attendance at parish Mass when possible
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff prayers during briefing at 8.30am• Class collective worship planned in collaboration with the children
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Collective Worship using the Statement to Live By as a stimulus or Class led Liturgy

Daily prayers are shared in every class.

Staff also have time once every four weeks to reflect on the coming group of Statement to Live By

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See (Curriculum RE scheme of work), feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Staff prayer will be celebrated during the morning briefing, and at the beginning of staff meetings.

Prayer and Liturgy needs to be placed in high priority. The environment in which it takes place as collective worship needs to be planned well. Candles as a visual focus are to be used as well as music. Children are to be taught how to alter the environment so that there is acceptance to develop spiritually – the space should feel spiritual.

Possible Collective Worship resources

- Lantern
- Candles
- Tea lights
- Pebbles
- Wooden hearts
- Stars
- Vase for flowers
- Bowl – for water
- God's Story
- Books appropriate to age group
- Collective worship planning cards
- Planning sheets
- Ten Ten subscription
- Cafod website
- Hexham and Newcastle Diocese Education Department website

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos. Focal points are to be given high importance throughout the school ensuring that they are visible in each space and easily accessible to the children.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

In school, therefore, the '**Liturgy of the Word**', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Headteacher is the co-ordinator for collective worship with the support of the Deputy Headteacher

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- 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 principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the Governing Committee of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently