



Archdiocese of  
Birmingham



# St Gregory's Catholic Academy

## Collective Worship Policy



All Saints Catholic Collegiate

## POLICY

### Approval and review

Committee to approve policy	Curriculum Committee
Date of Academy Committee Approval	November 2016
Chair of Academy committee	Mr R Chadwick
Signature	
Head teacher	Mrs M Yates
Policy review period	12 months
Date of policy review	Nov 2017

### MISSION STATEMENT

**With respect for God and united in faith, we place service before self to inspire hearts and minds.  
By achieving together through out love and faith, we place Christ at the centre of all we do.**



Version Control			
Version	Date Approved	Changes	Reason for Alterations
Issue 1		Annual update of policy	



## Introduction

This policy incorporates the aims and values of our school Mission Statement which is rooted in our belief that every child is unique, made in the image of Christ, and that this is reflected in the desire, commitment and aspirations of our school staff to address and overcome socio-economic factors - or any other external factor- which may hinder pupil progress and attainment, and ultimately affect their life chances.

RE in our schools is not solely taught as a curriculum area but as a way of life, promoting the gospel values, giving praise and reverence to God. It is an opportunity for everyone to develop their own personal faith through word, action and to enter into a communion with God, made possible, through the divine work of Jesus his Son and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This is achieved through liturgy, collective worship, assemblies, lessons, including curriculum content, and roles and responsibilities throughout the school which deepen our Catholic life and highlight our belief that Christ is at the centre of all that we do.

Pope Francis on Prayer:

*'Let us keep the flame of faith alive through prayer and the sacraments: let us make sure we do not forget God. Prayer, humility and charity towards all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness'.*

## Legal Requirement

It is a requirement that there is a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Collective worship is not designated under any part of the curriculum time, therefore will never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but is used to enhance and enrich spirituality across the school.

Collective worship involves:

- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of the Church
- Those from other Christian backgrounds – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

## Aims

The purpose of Collective Worship:

- To give glory, honour and praise to God
- To develop within the school as a community of faith
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- To give positive liturgical experiences to our pupils
- To witness to the community and the wider world
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To develop a common ethos and shared values



## Mission

*'Collective Worship (CW) is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our response to God's invitation.'* (St John Damascene)

Within our schools, collective worship is a way of celebrating our faith and deepening our relationship with God through prayer, reflection, praise and celebration.

Collective Worship refers not only to whole school gatherings but to those acts of worship which take place in a number of different settings and groupings of people in and around the school:

### **Assembly**

An assembly is a gathering of people. Strictly speaking, it is not a religious activity and is a means of communicating information to a group of people.

### **Liturgy**

Liturgy is the worship lived and practised by the Church. Liturgy encompasses all of the seasonal elements of the Church's year (The Liturgical Year), the structure of daily prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) specific rites such as the Funeral Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments. For schools, Liturgy is worship which incorporates elements of the rites and rituals, signs and symbols of the Church.

### **Mass**

For Catholics, the Mass is central to practice of the faith. At Mass the Last Supper is remembered but also recreated. Bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. This belief (transubstantiation) is what distinguishes us from many other Christians.<sup>1</sup> This sacrament is above all others because as members of the Church "we receive the Body of Christ and are increasingly being transformed into the Body of Christ"<sup>2</sup>

### **Prayer**

Deepen a personal relationship with God, prayer will help the pupils to become aware of God's presence in their lives and of His love for them, by leading them to respond to Him.

## Expectations for Collective Worship

As a Catholic school, Jesus Christ remains central to every aspect of school life. All pupils are educated in the beliefs and devotional practices of the Catholic church. Participation in daily collective act of worship remains at the helm of every morning and afternoon session, within RE lessons and at the end of each day.

- Every class will have a focal point, which is given prominence in the room. This focal point must be treated with reverence. It must be liturgically correct and follow the church's year. Focal points must not be untidy.
- Every class prepares and leads Mass once a term, with parents, families and parishioners warmly welcomed.
- Daily prayers are said at the start and end of each day, other prayers such as grace before and after meals are said.
- Over the course of the week a whole school gospel assembly takes place.
- Hymn practice is celebrated each week which is led to enrich worship.
- Class liturgies which are planned for as part of the curriculum, have a specific theme such as reconciliation and forgiveness during lent.

<sup>1</sup> Notes on The Mass from the Induction Pack 2013 [www.re-live.org](http://www.re-live.org)

<sup>2</sup> You cat 211



- During October the school hold a lunchtime rosary club for pupils and staff. Additionally, there are liturgies after school for parents, pupils and staff during Advent and Lent.
- The starroom is developed into a place for silent and personal prayers during the liturgical season of Advent and Lent. Our pupil spiritual leaders ensure that reverence and a respectful silence is maintained.
- Penitential services are carried out during Lent for the whole school. Children receive ashes on Ash Wednesday as a Mass/Service. Spiritual leaders help the parish priest to distribute the ashes.

Parents and carers are advised that, in desiring a Catholic education for their child, it is expected that all pupils will participate in RE lessons. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children, although this is strongly discouraged, and parents will be required to supervise their children during this period, as adult supervision is not available in school.

## Planning

Collective Worship in our school follows the pattern of :

- Gathering – how we come together, the environment (quiet, reflective music, lighted candles, statues). Sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience
- Listening – a reading from the Scriptures, time to reflect on this and prayer to fit into this theme
- Responding – a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme
- Mission/going forth - the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from their experience of the liturgy that they can take into their lives.

Teacher will plan their collective worship on a template as suggested by the Archdiocese of Birmingham..

## Inclusion

All children have equal access to the RE curriculum, regardless of religion, gender, culture or special educational needs. Full participation in all aspects of RE is expected.

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