



St Peter & St Paul

Catholic Voluntary Academy
Pro Petro Paulo Patria

Policy Document
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Collective Worship Policy

Policy Ref No. PRE 01

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

"Our Lord Jesus Christ is at the centre of our Catholic school community. The Gospel message forms our ethos and values, offering a definitive example of education. We join Christ in prayer and praise of God the Father, united by the Holy Spirit, making liturgy the heart of the daily life of the school. The quality of our prayer and liturgy is supported by our students and staff, understanding of our mission statement, through the virtues forming their character education spiritually and ethically."

Christ is at the centre of everything we do. The Gospel message provides us with our influence and inspiration. As well as this, from September 2020 we have implemented and developed further our mission statement by embedding the virtues into all that we are as a Catholic school. By making our Catholicity more explicit, we bring on-board our stakeholders in doing so.

'The school community should reflect on the virtues and select a broad and balanced range of virtues that are clearly defined and express the Church's vision within the school's own context.'

We unlock the fullness of life through faith and excellence in education.

CATHOLIC CHARACTER EDUCATION: Growing in the virtues and celebrating human flourishing in Catholic schools.

We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture, and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Our virtues provide the key foundations to allow our students through a variety of educational experiences and interactions to prepare our young people for a life working with others in communities which maybe diverse socially, culturally, and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is in an ethnically diverse community.

The education of all

It is our duty of care to ensure that all members of our community who may be socially, academically, physically, emotionally, or financially disadvantaged have an equal opportunity to flourish within their **academic** and social aspects of their Catholic education.

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Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

Any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and **is** required to support them.

Children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them.

All our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject in any way to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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Introduction

We believe that Collective Worship in a Catholic Academy is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour, glory, and thanksgiving may be given to Him, the Almighty. Collective Worship should be at the heart of this Eucharistic community who come together as witnesses in Christ. It is through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are invited to enter into a loving relationship with Him. Collective Worship is this community's response to that invitation.

Legal Requirements and Provision for Act of Collective Worship

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. 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 academy groups. *We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either a member of staff or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that whole school and academy group acts of worship and standing assemblies are distinct activities.* They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

After the 2006 Education and Inspection Act, the situation in relation to all students post formal school leaving age in school or college if they are beyond the leaving age is:

Section 71 of SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance at religious worship, makes provision for exceptions and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows.

- (1) If the parent of a pupil at a community, foundation, or voluntary school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education given at the school in accordance with the school's basic curriculum, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
- (1a) if the parent of any pupil at a community, foundation, or voluntary school/academy other than a sixth form pupil requests that he / she may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
- (1b) if a sixth form student requests that he / she may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school/academy, the pupil shall be so excused.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the Religious Education lesson (for time purposes).

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Definitions

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the phrase used to describe the legal duty which schools have. The Department for Education states that, "Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes" (Circular number 1/94). Collective Worship is also the phrase used with the Catholic Schools Inspection in line with this legal requirement.

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means 'work of the people' and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which it is symbol and action. The Prayer and Liturgy Directory (Pg 8) states that, "The most familiar forms of the liturgy celebrated in school are the Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

Prayer

The "lifting up of the hearts and minds to God", which means it involves our whole person – our head as well as our heart." (Prayer and Liturgy Directory, Pg. 7).

Celebration of the word

Celebrations of the word are more structured forms of prayer and worship which, "take many forms, but the common element is the proclamation of scripture. These include assemblies, carol services, and other gatherings of all or part of the school community for special times and occasions." (Prayer and Liturgy Directory Pg 8). The Gather, Word, Response and Mission format mirrors the structure of the Mass.

Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship considers the religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in it:

- i) Those who form part of the worshipping community
- ii) Those for whom academy may be their first and only experience of church
- iii) Those from other Christian backgrounds
- iv) Those from other world faith backgrounds
- v) Those from other backgrounds who are admitted to the academy under the categories agreed by the Governing Body as the admission authority

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It will be planned with individual needs in mind and with the understanding that, "What is essential for some is beneficial for all." (Planning and Celebrating Prayer & Liturgy with Young People, Pg 52)

Worship in this academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of academy life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our academy community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- i) To contemplate the mystery of God
- ii) To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community
- iii) To enrich the religious experience and the spiritual, moral, and cultural development of the pupils
- iv) To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- v) To explore and reflect on their own beliefs and value systems and reflect upon their own faith journey
- vi) To respond and celebrate life
- vii) To develop a common ethos and shared value system
- viii) To grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills
- ix) To develop a sense of wonder, awe, and inspiration in the person of Christ
- x) To develop and reinforce the skills of prayer
- xi) To reinforce positive attitudes

Implementation / Principles

All acts of worship should:

- i) Give glory and praise to God
- ii) Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the academy and its Catholic character
- iii) Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude, and family backgrounds to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church

To do this, celebrations will:

- i) Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants
- ii) Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery
- iii) Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help personalise the experience
- iv) Be short and appropriately paced (attention span lasts with any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life)
- v) Be reflective, engaging, and clear, using a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Collective Worship in our school may follow the pattern outlined below (or a variation on it):

Gathering

How we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet / reflective music, lighted candles, statues, cross, focus and examination of conscience etc.)

Word

Reading from Scripture (or another suitable source), breaking the word / time down to reflect on this and prayers to fit the theme

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Response

A response to the scripture that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gesture such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc.)

Mission

Sending out from the celebration, giving the pupils something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives, or a 'mission activity' which is a deliberate action to follow up on following the celebration.

Policy Monitoring and Review

Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to collective worship, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the School Standard Framework 1998.

It is the overall responsibility of Governors, in consultation with the Head teacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the school's trust deed and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

This policy is monitored by the collective worship co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed every two years. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school. This will form part of the Head teacher's report to the Governors.

The following will be monitored:

- i) Time set aside for collective worship
- ii) Whether the observed practice is consistent with the agreed policy
- iii) Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc.
- iv) Staff development on collective worship and its impact
- v) Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer
- vi) Impact on the pupils and members of the academy community
- vii) Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer
- viii) Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship

Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- i) On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- ii) Through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

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Collective Worship Provision

Activity	When	Who	Led By	Location
Morning prayer	Daily	All Years	Pupils	Tutor room
End of Day prayer	Daily	All Years	All lesson 5 Staff	Classroom
Staff Morning prayer	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	All Staff	Headteacher	RE3
Key Stage celebrating the Word	Monday	All Students	SLT	SSPP Church
Living Word	Wednesday	All Students	Tutors	Tutor rooms
Living Word	Thursday	All Students	Tutors	Tutor rooms
Living Word	Friday	All Students	Tutors	Tutor rooms
SSPP Day Mass	29 June	All Years	Headteacher and Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
Remembrance Service	11 November	All Years	Assistant Headteacher	SSPP Church
Holocaust Memorial	27 January	Year 9	Humanities Dept	SSPP Church
Stations of the Cross	Lent	Years 7 and 11	Lay Chaplain RE Dept.	Lesson Time and Activity in School
Welcome Mass	September	All Years	Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
Year 7 Welcome Liturgy	September	Year 7	Lay Chaplain and Headteacher	Start of the day
Education Sunday Mass	September	30-40 pupils	Parish Priest Head Teacher Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
Christmas Liturgy	December	All Years	All Staff	SSPP Church
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Advent and Lent	All Years	Lay Chaplain	SSPP School
Ash Wednesday Mass	Lent	All Years	Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
Year 11 Leavers Liturgy	June	Year 11	Lay Chaplain Member of SLT	Outdoor Chapel
Year 13 Leavers Liturgy	July	Year 13	Lay Chaplain Member of SLT	Outdoor Chapel
Joint Carol Service	December	All students and Catholic feeder schools	Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
End of year Liturgy	July	All Years	Headteacher	SSPP Church

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Easter Liturgy	Easter	All Years	Lay Chaplain	SSPP Church
Advent Mass	December	Each Key Stage	Lay Chaplain and Headteacher	SSPP Church
Lent Masses	Each week during Lent	Each Year group	Lay Chaplain and Headteacher	SSPP Church
Staff Liturgies	End of each term	All Staff	Headteacher	School/SSPP Church