

# St Agnes' Catholic Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



*The family of St Agnes love, learn and grow together as  
followers of Jesus*

**Date of policy review:** January 2023

**Next review:** January 2024

Policy written by: Stephanie Moran  
Policy reviewed & passed by: Governing Body  
Key person responsible: Susan O'Reilly

## **School Mission Statement**

### ***The family of St Agnes love, learn and grow together as followers of Jesus***

This Mission Statement gives an identity to our school as to its purpose and ethos. It is based on Gospel values and a love for Jesus Christ, acts as a guideline to forming relationships between individuals, staff and pupils; and forms a community which recognises the value and worth of each person as a Christian.

This Statement, put into action spreads across the curriculum, recreation, assemblies and all the activities of the school.

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.<sup>1</sup>

### **Legal Requirements:**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.<sup>2</sup> (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.

In St Agnes' Primary School, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

### **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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- Those with special educational and medical needs. 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 develop the skills of:
  - Reverence
  - Contemplation
  - Reflection
  - Interpretation
  - Empathy
  - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

### **Principles:**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.<sup>3</sup>
- Celebrations will: - be short and appropriately paced taking into account the age of the children - be appropriate to their level of understanding - include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

### **How Collective Worship is organised:**

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship within St Agnes is as follows:

#### **KS1**

<b>Week Day</b>	<b>Format of Worship</b>
Monday	Key Stage Collective Worship – Gospel Assembly
Tuesday	Class Worship – Prayers and reflections (Sts Days, special intentions, learning a new prayer, liturgical seasons, themes from units of work)
Wednesday	Meditation
Thursday	Teacher Led Collective Worship (pupil led in Spring/Summer term)

<sup>3</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Friday	Listen to music as a quiet reflective time/ Written intentions and reflections
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## KS2

Week Day	Format of Worship
Monday	Key Stage Collective Worship – Gospel Assembly
Tuesday	Teacher Led Class Worship – Prayers and reflections (Sts Days, special intentions, learning a new prayer, Bible readings, liturgical seasons, themes from units of work)
Wednesday	Meditation
Thursday	Pupil Led Collective Worship
Friday	Listen to music as a quiet reflective time/ written intentions and reflections

Children will participate in additional Collective Worship during religious seasons, on Holy days and other days of religious significance. Meditation will happen daily across the school after lunch time.

### The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- Proclaim – every liturgy will centre on at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a Bible or lectionary.
- Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

### Recording:

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a pupil led liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through displays, prayers, collections of pupils' contributions, photographs, in a class Collective Worship book

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the RE leader as part of the monitoring cycle, 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.

**Resources:**

Children's Bibles and prayer table resources are kept in each class.

Resources for Sacraments, Christian Living, the Church and other faiths are kept in the RE cupboard in the intervention room

Posters, books and religious artefacts are also kept in the RE cupboard in the intervention room.

**Eucharist:**

Eucharistic celebrations take place in the form of year group masses. These will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage, i.e children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and those children who have already made their First Holy Communion (KS2). 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.

**Policy Monitoring and Review:**

This policy is monitored by the RE subject Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the governors every two years. The Catholic Life of the School Committee in particular will play an important role in reviewing the policy.

**The Leader for Collective Worship:** Stephanie Moran

**Last Reviewed:** January 2023