



*Holy Trinity Catholic
Primary School*

*Collective Worship
Policy*

Revised Sept. 2017
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Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction:

Our School Mission Statement (updated July 2015) states that:-

**‘Walking in the footsteps of Jesus:
We care, we share, we love, we learn.’**

In order to fulfil its Mission Statement and the recommendations of the Bishops’ Conference, Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School places great importance upon the daily Act of Worship.

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents, pupils and governors the manner in which Collective Worship will be delivered in this School.

Aims:

Collective Worship at Holy Trinity aims:

- To provide experiences of a loving and worshipping community.
- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To give opportunities to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To give pupils opportunities to explore their own beliefs/values.
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in presentation of worship, or through listening and joining in worship offered.
- To promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To reinforce positive attitudes.

The Character of Collective Worship in a Catholic School:

Collective Worship in a Catholic School, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character.

It will reflect the tradition of the Church and will have Christ at its heart.

Our policy in Holy Trinity is to try to ensure that we are both pro-active and reactive.

Pro-active in the sense of planning and participating what is appropriate for all the pupils to know, understand and be able to reflect upon.

Reactive in the sense that we will be able to react to people's life situations and the joys and sorrows, the hopes and uncertainties which are experienced therein with empathy, warmth, patience, understanding, love and hopefully a little wisdom.

Legal Requirements

1. A daily Act of Collective Worship must be provided for all pupils in school.
2. The Act must occur in school time, but not necessarily at the beginning of the school day.
3. The whole school need not be present at the time of Collective Worship.
4. All Acts of Collective Worship whether 'broadly Christian' or not, must take account of:
 - ✚ The pupils' age and aptitudes.
 - ✚ Their family backgrounds.
5. The Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for all pupils every day.

The Personal and the Collective:

Collective Worship contributes to the knowledge, awareness and understanding of each individual pupil.

It contributes to a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values in the school as a whole and in this way provides a secure framework in which pupils may develop their own spiritual and moral values and commitments.

It should include times of silence when pupils may pray privately according to their own faith and traditions or when they may reflect or meditate.

Features of Collective Worship:

It should seek to develop:

- A sense of reverence and devotion.
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- A sense of transience and constant change.
- A sense of pattern, sequence and order.
- A sense of identity, uniqueness and self-worth.
- An intuitive awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, good and bad, selfish and unselfish etc.

The Programme of Collective Worship:

At Holy Trinity Collective Worship takes place in the following activities:

- Through the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme.
- Daily class prayers.
- School and Key Stage Assemblies.
- Class Assemblies.
- Season specific Services (ie. Advent and Lent).
- School Masses and Celebrations of Sacraments.

The timing and organisation of class daily Collective Worship is flexible. Each class teacher allocates time each day, the time allowance being in line with policy that is at the appropriate age of the children. On three days each week, Acts of Collective Worship take place in class groups. On the other two days they are part of a Key Stage or whole school assembly.

Each week in Holy Trinity, the whole school comes together to emphasise the unity of our community. This assembly is usually led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. It takes the format of formal prayers followed by an Act of Collective Worship. The focus is usually based on the 'Wednesday Word' – sharing Sunday's Gospel. Appropriate resources are displayed on a focus table/area. School announcements are then made and presentations for good work, behaviour, attendance etc. Each week the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher leads an assembly for each of the Key Stages which includes Collective Worship.

The Character of Collective Worship & Some Practical Guidelines:

Collective Worship must be appropriate to the pupils. Provided that, taken as a whole, an Act of Worship which is broadly Christian reflects the tradition of Christian belief, it need not contain only Christian material.

It must however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

Age-related groupings allow the content of Collective Worship to be targeted more closely to the pupils' needs.

A Collective Worship proforma is available from the Archdiocesan Web site (in Formation – Christian Education Department - Planners) and on the 'Come and See' website, Respond section.

Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear.

Collective Worship can, nevertheless be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

The broad and rich diversity of Worship Practice includes:-

- Introductory music to create the mood and focus attention.
- The singing of hymns and songs.
- The reading of a short passage of scripture.
- Appreciation of a piece of music
- Appreciation of a painting/work of art.
- Having a talk or story.
- Taking part in a closing prayer.
- The opportunity for children to share their own thoughts and prayers.
- The use of artefacts.
- Use of ICT, websites and multimedia.
- Drama and role play.
- The questioning of pupils and the opportunities for quiet reflection.
- There should be a sense of peace, thankfulness and stillness in the midst of a busy experience.

Pupil Involvement:

Taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an Act of Collective Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel actively able to identify with the act of worship. Children are encouraged to aid the planning process for Collective Worship and contribute ideas and suggestions i.e. theme, music, prayers and activities, and indeed lead Collective Worship from their earliest years This is an area the school continues to address. Children do contribute significantly to their class assembly that they present to the rest of the school. It usually takes place at the end of a 'Come and See' topic.

ASSEMBLIES 2017/18

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| Y3 | Domestic church - <u>family</u> | Fri. 13 th Oct. |
| Y4 | Baptism/confirmation - <u>belonging</u> | Fri. 10 th Nov. |
| Y5M | Advent/Christmas - <u>loving</u> | Fri. 1 st Dec. |
| | + Advent assemblies and Nativity/Carols | |
| Rec | Local church - <u>community</u> | Fri. 26 th Jan. |
| Y6 | Eucharist - <u>relating</u> | Fri. 2 nd Mar. |
| Nurs | Lent/Easter - <u>giving</u> | Fri. 23 rd Mar. |
| | + Holy Week assemblies/Way of the Cross | |
| Y2 | Pentecost - <u>serving</u> | Fri. 4 th May |
| Y1 | Reconciliation - <u>inter-relating</u> | Fri. 8 th June |
| Y5B | Universal Church - <u>world</u> | Fri. 13 th July |
| | + Leavers' assembly and Mass | |