

# St Marie's Catholic Primary School

*"Learning through faith, love and respect"*



## Collective Worship Policy

Date Reviewed	Pending
Person Responsible:	RE Subject lead

**Signed:**  Mrs Melanie Smith (Headteacher) **Date:**

**Signed:** *Mrs S Styles* (Subject Leader ) **Date:**

**Signed:** *Mrs Frances Cheetham* (Chair/Governor) **Date:**



### **Mission Statement**

#### **LEARNING THROUGH FAITH, LOVE AND RESPECT**

Living as Jesus taught us and as part of God's family, we at St Marie's seek to develop each individual with faith, love and respect for each other.

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Quote:**

**“God created man in the image of himself. And so it was that God saw all he had made and indeed it was very good” Genesis 1: 27**

### **Our School**

St Marie's is a Catholic school and our policy is based on the knowledge that God is present in each member of our school community. We demonstrate respect for each person created by God. All members of the school community including children staff parents and governors have been consulted regarding this policy.

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. 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.

We are a Catholic community which has prayer, worship and liturgical celebrations at its heart. Through the frequent and varied Acts of Worship, the members of St Marie's community deepen their faith and understanding of God's world and abounding love for each one of us.

### **Aims**

It is the aim of our schools to enable our children to:

- to consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- to experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- to encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- to develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- to explore social, moral and spiritual values

## Teaching

At St. Marie's we cherish the distinctive nature of being a Catholic School. We want our children to have Christ at the centre of all they do. We strive for all areas of our school's curriculum in some way contribute to the spiritual development of our pupils. We strive to help our pupils understand the way God works in our lives and in the wider spectrum, and thus exploring beneath and beyond mere factual knowledge. This being said, the 'Come and See' programme and the Collective Worship themes, provide a more formal framework in which children can develop a sense of feeling the presence of God in their lives, have opportunities to reflect upon their own personal existence and make sense of the world in which they live. They experience the teachings of the Gospels and stories through which they become familiar with the life and teachings of Jesus. We hold Collective Worship sessions in class twice a week and the GIFT team children deliver the second session throughout school.

## Principles

We provide the children with quality time for reflection. We strive that all acts of Collective Worship are:

- related to the age, ability and background of pupils
- designed to actively engage pupils and elicit a response
- resourced and planned
- memorable and enjoyable
- an educational activity

## The process



Gather



Word (Listen)



Respond



Go Forth

- Preparation: When, where, who, what? What resources will I need? Create a focus.
- **Gather:** How will we begin? How will I create an atmosphere of prayer?
- **Word:** What will be the scripture focus and decide how to present it.
- **Respond:** What will we do in response to listening to God's Word e.g. prayer and symbolic action?
- **Going Forth:** What will I do to help the pupils take the message away with them?

**In order to give our pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background we:**

- Keep it small wherever possible
- Keep it short and appropriately paced (KS1 = 5-7minutes and KS2 7-10minutes)
- Keep it simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

### **Resources**

Each class has a box of simple resources to aid the children`s planning and delivery of Collective Worship. This enables the children to create a focus during times of worship. A special focus may be created for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artifact may be used as a centering object during prayer.

Each class has a Collective Worship table in class which provides a quiet focus for the children at any time of the day.

### **Pupil Involvement**

We strive for every child to be active participants in each Collective Worship where that is through sharing ideas or quiet reflection. Pupils are also encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies and in class groups.

Our young disciples are encouraged to play a part in the Collective Worship during our Friday Golden Book.

### **Assemblies are held as follows:**

#### **Headteacher's Assembly**

This is held twice a week. On a Monday, the previous Sunday's Liturgy is shared with the children. The children then focus on how they can live out the Gospel value during the week. On Friday, we discuss and share how we have lived out the Gospel value and celebrate the children's achievements throughout the week.

#### **Key Stage Assemblies**

Assembly is held once a week within each Key Stage and is led by teachers and children (Picture News Pioneers). The content of each of the Key Stage assemblies is based on the principals of nurturing the whole child. We engage with and discuss national theme weeks/events and look at how Christ is as at the centre. Focal points are used and together with quiet music create an atmosphere in which the children are able to reflect on the theme of the assembly.

### **Other Opportunities for Worship**

Masses are celebrated in school at regular intervals and the members of the Parish are invited. Children are involved by preparing the readings, hymns and prayers.

School Masses are celebrated:-

Autumn Term	The beginning of the new school year Advent Mass We celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation
Spring Term	Beginning of term to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Beginning of Lent Easter
Summer Term	Leavers Mass First Holy Communion.

There are many other non-Eucharistic acts of worship which the children take part in these are as follows:

Harvest  
Advent 'drop in' for parents  
Carol Singing  
Stations of the Cross  
Children's prayer services  
Class assemblies  
Rosary

### **Conclusion**

Prayer and worship is central to Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of Collective Worship that are relevant, appropriate and life giving.