

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Collective Worship Policy 2017-2018

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Mission Statement

At Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School and Nursery, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School is a community based on the teachings of Jesus, where everyone is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

The Nature of Collective Worship

In O.L.A. believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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.

Legal Requirements

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 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

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 will 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide the following opportunities 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 and share a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich their religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully in the planning and delivery of the sessions
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To teach children how to worship.
- To promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;

- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.¹ In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
 - be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 minutes. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- appropriately planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. They will be involved in each step from planning and preparation to leading the worship session. Our current schedule is as follows:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Person Leading</u>	<u>Main Hall</u>
Monday	Head teacher to lead assembly. Develop to celebrate work, attendance, punctuality and star pupils etc	KS2 and KS1
Tuesday	Class and Teacher in classrooms	
Wednesday	Class and Teacher in classrooms Hymn Practice.	Reception and KS1 KS2
Thursday	Class and Teacher in classrooms	
Friday	Class and Teacher in classrooms	

We invite parents to worship on special occasions and we encourage them to

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements and development of our children.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, pictures, role play and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Planning, Content and Detail

Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 follow planned themes for their acts of collective worship. These themes are provided by the R.E. Co-ordinator. In class children use these themes, with the support of their teacher and LSA to plan daily acts of worship. They Gather, Listen, Respond and the session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out. At the Go Forth stage, messages are given.

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', 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 in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on the arch diocesan planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A variety of prayers are said. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet reflection. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

At the beginning and end of the lunch hour, grace is said in class and is led by either an adult or child. Prayers are also said in class at the beginning and end of each school day, appropriate to their age range and guide in the school prayer book, as recommended by Come and See.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Resources

A wide variety of resources are at hand for use in Collective Worship. In each classroom there is a designated focus area. These are draped in fabric and teachers have at hand a range of candles, images, statues and figures, lights and objects for creating a sense of reflection, a prayerful atmosphere and a visual focus for children. These objects are located in the R.E. cupboards on the corridor.

See Appendix 1 for Collective Worship resources stored in cupboards along the corridor to the office.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. 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. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the ***'Directory for Masses with Children' and Religious Education Curriculum Directory 2012*** as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

At Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a number of traditional prayers
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in planning, delivering and leading worship

At Key Stage 2 Worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship
- opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in planning and delivering worship

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The R.E. Co-ordinator in O.L.A. is Mrs. Alison Gill who is also responsible for Collective Worship. The roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinator which may be shared with the head teacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and parish priest include:

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the head teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and head teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the parish priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors regularly.

Appendix 1

Resources for Collective Worship

Books:

God's Story 1: told by the people of God. (2005) Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 1-899481-19-2

Church's Story 1: The Church's Story lived by the people of God. (2005) Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 1-899481-22-2

God's Story 2: told by the people of God. (2002) Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 1-899481-17-6

Church's Story 2: The Church's Story lived by the people of God. Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 9781899481231

God's Story 3: told by the people of God. (2002) Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 1-899481-18-4

Church's Story 3: The Church's Story lived by the people of God. (2006) Rejoice Publications. ISBN: 1-899481-24-9

Creation Stories Anthology. (1996) The Educational Television Company. ISBN: 1-899214-50

The Father Loves You (2) Senior Infants/ Primary 2. 2nd Ed. Geoffrey Chapmann. London. ISBN: 0-225-66370-8

Good Morning Everybody! Redvers Branding (1986) Basil Blackwell, Oxford. ISBN: 0-631-15074-9

The Lion Book of Children's Prayers. Mary Batchelor (1977). Lion Publishing. ISBN: 0-7459-3318-1

The Complete Come and Praise words edition. BBC. ISBN: 0-563-34580-2

Guided Meditations for Children. Jane Reehorst BVM (2002) Harcourt Religion Publishers. ISBN: 0-15-901099-3

What a Wonderful World! (1998) Lion Publishing ISBN: 0-7459-3831-0

God's Little Devotional Book for Boys. (2004) Honor Books. ISBN: 978-1-56292-201-6

The One Year Book of Devotions for Girls 2 (2002) Tyndale Kids. ISBN: 13: 978-0-8423-6015-9

The One Year Book of Devotions for Kids #3 (1997) Tyndale House Publishers ISBN: 0-8423-4662-7

The Children's Book of Saints. Louis M. Savary S.T.D. (2004) The Regina Press. ISBN: 0-88271-130-X

Experience Jesus Today: Understanding the Gospel. Albert Hari and Charles Singer (1993) Novalis Matthew James Publishing JPH ISBN: 2-87718-094-8

Prayer Books:

My First Prayer Book by Father Lovaisk S.V.D. (1980) Catholic Book Publishing Corporation. N.Y. ISBN: 0-89942-288-8

A Child's Book of Celtic Prayers. Joyce Denham (1998) Lion Publishing PLC ISBN: 0-7459-3774-8

Children's Prayers from Around the World. (1995) Sandy Lane Books, Oxford. ISBN: 0-7459-4008-0

Prayers for a Fragile World. Carol Watson. (1991) Lion Publishing, Oxford. ISBN: 0-7459-3705-5

My Very First Prayers. Lois Rock (2003) Lion Publishing Plc ISBN: 0-7459-4466-3

Praying as a School: Prayers for Assembly. Katie Thompson. (2003) Kevin Mayhew Ltd. ISBN: 1-84417-171-X

365 Children's Prayers. (1993) Lion Publishing PLC ISBN: 0-7459-14543

Music:

Come and See CDs by John Burland for each year group.

Fridrik Karlsson Peace of Mind

Resurrexit: Taize

Rejoice One and **Rejoice Two** – Songs for Celebration: Collins: 0-00-711776-0 (One) 0-00-7117779-99Two) *CD's to accompany HIA.*

Simply Peaceful – Ideal for resting, relaxation, meditation and prayer. CDM 6298 NLM

Magical Atmosphere – Music to create a more tranquil and magical atmosphere