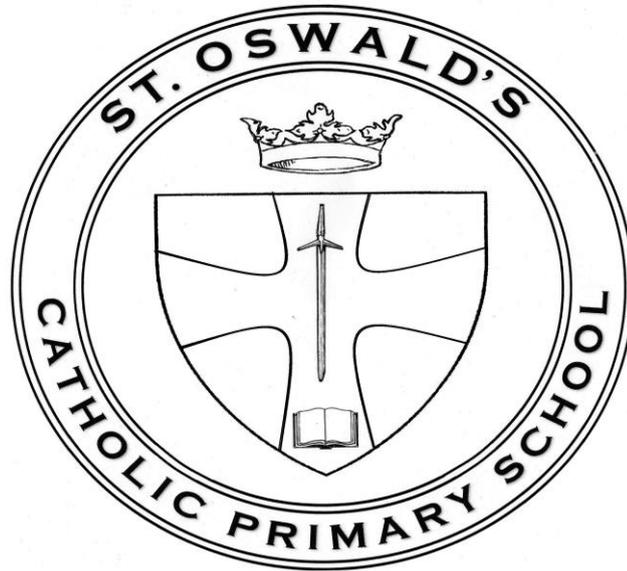


# **St Oswald's Catholic Primary School**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

# St Oswald's Catholic Primary

## School Collective Worship Policy

This is St Oswald's Catholic Primary School's policy for Collective Worship and is set within the context of the whole school aims and Mission Statement:

*'Together with Jesus, we will Learn  
and Grow in Faith'*

Background Information:

St Oswald's Primary School has approximately 645 boys and girls, aged 3-11 on roll who come from the residential areas of Old Swan. Within each year group, there are identified pupils with special educational needs.

### What is Collective Worship?

“Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.”  
(Circular1/94)

“Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God.”

The worship which takes place in St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is Collective Worship. This 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Catholic in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart.

Worship in our school will be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common.

### Why Collective Worship?

Collective Worship in our school provides opportunities for learners and staff to come together to worship God.

- To pray
- To reflect on spiritual and moral beliefs
- To reflect on personal belief
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes

- To mark us as special
- To come to terms with
- To give worth to
- To wonder at
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To contemplate something of the Mystery of God
- To take time out
- To develop a community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values

### Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child. Class teachers are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship each day. Learners must have the opportunity to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. Parents and other adults can be invited to participate in Collective Worship. Teachers, Chaplains, children and visitors can lead Collective Worship.

Where Collective Worship takes place:

- In the classroom
- In the open air
- In the school hall
- In church

Acts of Collective Worship should take place in school, but the Governing Body have the discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

When Collective Worship takes place:

Collective Worship need not take place at the beginning of the school day, but at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful experience for all participants.

Collective Worship in our school takes place in classes, year groups, key stages and as a whole school.

Monday– Whole School prayer

Tuesday – Friday (Class or Year group)

Length of Collective Worship

In general Collective Worship should last one minute for each year of a child's life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by learners, staff and visitors
- Can be offered for a class, year group, Key Stage or whole school
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or short addresses
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the learners.
- Set an appropriate prayerful atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

Collective Worship will be planned and evaluated.

### Planning

- Through consultation with appropriate parties and references to the school's aims and policies
- With reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum – Using the Collective Worship booklet – giving a theme each week .

What to include on planning sheet for Collective Worship.

When Teachers plan Collective Worship...

- Preparation: When, where, who, what? What resources will I need? Create focus. Send invitations
- Gathering: How will we begin / enter – to music? Create an atmosphere of prayer. Maybe use a 'gathering chant' Come in procession, sing a hymn.
- Listen: Reading from scriptures, psalms, etc. Use power point. Pause at times for quiet contemplation. Dramatise the readings.
- Respond: What do pupils will do. Quiet reflection, formal / informal prayer / respond to bidding prayers. Place stone at foot of cross etc.
- Go Forth: What will I do to help the children take the message away with them – prayer card, picture, common prayer, action to be followed up or retold at home.

When children plan Collective Worship:

#### Gather

- What music might you play?
- How will you arrange the children?
- Will you light the candle(s)?
- Can you find an appropriate picture / poster / artefact? – explain it.

#### Listen

- Who will read?
- What will you read?  
( Scripture / Prayer / Psalm / Poem / Story / Hymn)
- Will you act out the reading? Or use a Power Point presentation?

#### Respond

- How will you help your friends to reflect on what they have read?
- Will you say prayers that need a response?
- Who will lead the prayers?

#### Go Forth

- What do you want your friends to take away from this Act of Worship to remember its message.

Collective Worship will be recorded through:

- Planning sheets
- Collections of learner's contributions/prayers, reflections
- Photographs / display

#### Recording

- To keep note of the themes, leaders, learning groups and resources
- Through displays, collections of learner's contributions, prayers and reflection

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

We will review this policy biannually with reference to the variety of experiences offered to our children. We will assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout our school.

Agreed by governors October 2017



