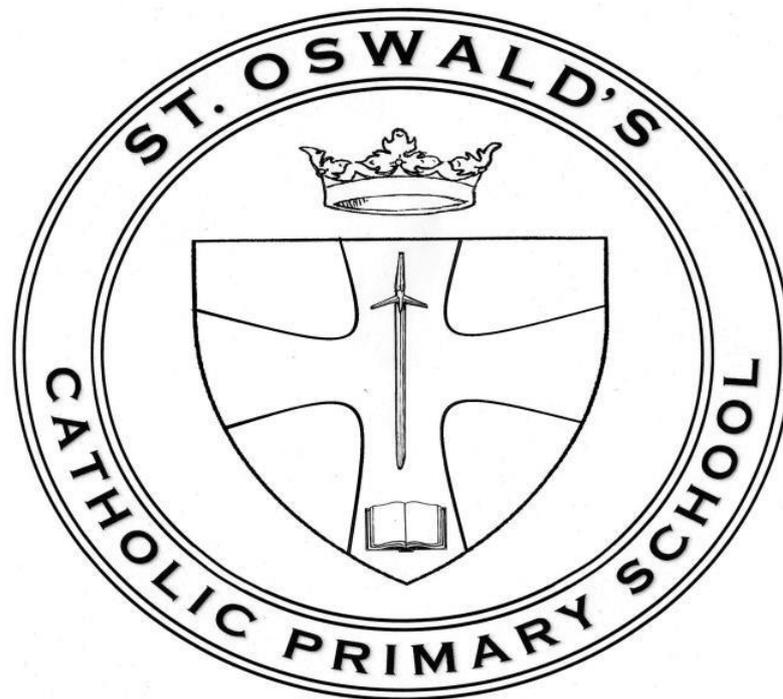


# St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

St Oswald's Catholic Primary  
School Collective Worship Policy

Written November 2019

Reviewed and adapted March 2021

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 '*

*At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School we celebrate the individual differences and gifts that God has blessed each and every one of us with.*

### **Introduction**

Collective Worship in St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is an integral part of school life and central to our Catholic tradition. While respecting diversity of belief and commitment; It is Catholic in character and has Christ at its heart.

We believe that Collective Worship in our Catholic school 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

### **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

### **Planning and Delivery:**

- A daily collective worship is held in each classroom. This lasts approximately one minute for each year of the children's lives.
- A whole school collective worship takes place every Monday morning in the school hall as part of assembly.
- We take opportunities to vary the location for collective worship, such as in the open and in Church when appropriate.

- We ensure collective worship provides learners with a variety of experiences. It may be led by staff, visitors or the children themselves.

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.

### **Organisation and Teaching Methods:**

A balance of quiet reflection, silence, scripture, prayers, music, songs, dance, drama or video may be used to encourage the children to 'gather, listen, respond and go forth.'

Each class has a visual prayer space with a focus table- which will reflect either the topic or the Liturgical season. By their active participation in celebrations throughout the topics children will be introduced to symbol, gestures and actions of liturgy and worship.

In each 'Come and See' topic there are opportunities for children to participate in community worship in an active, conscious and genuine way. Parents are regularly invited to join in class collective worship celebrations. We link themes for daily acts of worship to the Liturgical seasons of the Church.

### **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.

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

## Planning

### 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.
- 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 ,artwork possibly - A variety of ways to present Scripture
- 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 / Parable / 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.

### **1. Staff Spirituality**

Staff are invited to participate in "Collective Worship" in order to support and develop their own spirituality. This may be through the "Come and See for Yourself" reflections, INSET Day reflections, attendance and participation in school Masses and Liturgies, Archdiocesan training and in Spirituality INSET.

All staff are invited to gather together each Monday morning for a collective worship led by the Headteacher or member of SLT

### **Monitoring:**

Examples of Collective Worship Planners and photographs will be used on a regular basis as part of the monitoring process. Observations of Collective Worship will be undertaken by the RE Co-ordinator once a year, to consider whether it meets the needs of our pupils and whether it reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Training for Collective Worship will be part of the induction process for all new staff

### **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.

### **Impact of Covid-19**

Due to school closure in March 2020, the curriculum moved to a dual curriculum until the end of the 2019/20 academic year. Opportunities for family worship as well as links to online prayer (TEN TEN) resources were posted on the school website. For those children in school opportunities for worship were made available on a daily basis and provided an integral part of the wellbeing curriculum that was to be delivered.

Agreed by Governors



