

St Cuthbert & The First Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

'Excellence in all we do. Outstanding every day'

Our Mission

'Through the sign of the cross we follow Jesus'

Rationale

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.) The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

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

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School

We endorse the belief that 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

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God, our Father, daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer
- Prayer through hymns

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are invited to pray in the morning and in the evening and before and after lunch.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity 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 a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

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
- Give children positive liturgical experiences appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation

In order to achieve the above Collective Worship is organised as follows:

- Monday** Whole School Worship takes place on a Monday morning, with a focus on the Liturgical year and generally the Gospel from the weekend Mass. Children are invited to read bidding prayers.
- Tuesday** The Whole School has a Virtues Worship on Tuesday mornings led by a rotation of teaching staff, where the Virtue to Live By statement for the week is introduced. Children are invited to lead our morning prayer. Every third week we revisit a Principle from Catholic Social Teaching.
- Wednesday** Class-based Collective Worship takes place every Wednesday. Pupils take increasing amounts of responsibility for the planning and delivery of the worship as they progress throughout the school.
- Thursday** Whole School Worship is led by one class based on their Class Saint and other special events such as Buddies, Remembrance & Month of the Rosary. Parents invited to attend. These worships are generally structured in a way that celebrates learning while also recognising a religious theme, Gospel reading or Bible story. Where a class worship is not planned for the week, classes utilise the Mark 10 Mission liturgy of the week.
- Friday** This worship is a Celebration Worship where the whole school community thank God and celebrate the work we do as a school community 'Through the sign of the cross...' We also celebrate how individuals and groups of children have shown how they 'follow Jesus.' We highlight our vision of celebrating 'Excellence in all we do, Outstanding every day' by presenting virtue certificates and school life is shared and celebrated. Children are also given the opportunity to celebrate one another's acts of kindness by presenting certificates to peers.

Picture News: To integrate British Values we use the Catholic version of Picture News weekly. This gives children an insight into real world events and asks them to consider this from a faith point of view. They are invited to debate, reflect and respond in their own ways.

Planning

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Virtue to Live By, Lighting the Path, significant dates and the curriculum.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Faith Leaders regularly review different forms of worship within school and give their feedback to staff.

Resources

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally and are reviewed regularly as part of the Catholic Life Coordinator's monitoring role. Additionally, each class has their own Collective Worship Box which contains drapes and artefacts that reflect the changing Liturgical year. The list of expectations for each year group are listed in 'A Guide to Pupil Led Collective Worship' (please see Appendix 1. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning including www.virtuestoliveby.org

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole School Masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at St Cuthbert and The First Martyrs' Church or within school.

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation in Year 3, First Holy Communion in Year 4 and Confirmation in Year 6. Special Sunday Masses are arranged with Catechists and Fr Austin for these children to participate in.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Each class has a Collective Worship Folder in which they keep evidence of the following:

- Planning to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources.
- Teachers will also keep evidence of displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections,

Equal Opportunities

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 need to 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.

Health and Safety

Battery operated candles are used throughout school. Where real candles are in use, such as in Mass and Whole School Worship, they are supervised closely.

Review

This policy is monitored by the Catholic Life Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Review Record

Date of Review	Action	Initials
17th Jan 2017	Updated by RW	RW/DC and Pastoral sub committee
21st April 2021	Updated by RG	RG/ SMC
9th September 2022	Updated by CV	CV/MPM
6th January 2023	Reviewed by SW	SW
11th September 2024	Reviewed by MPM/CV	MPM/CV
16th September 2026	Updated by MS/CV	MS/CV

A Guide to Child Led Liturgy

The Blessed Christopher Wharton
Catholic Academy Trust



With thanks to and based upon documents provided by

The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Introduction

Children have a valuable role to play in liturgy right from the time that they first begin to know what it means to pray and respond to God and God's creation.

This role, however, differs from the beginning of primary school to the end. What follows is a guide for each child's faith journey through primary school. However, as in all areas in school life, some children will be in advance of their year group where some will still be functioning at an earlier stage.

All children in school also have a role to play in teacher led liturgy, which ranges from small scale worship in the class room to whole school liturgy including parents and parishioners. This document, however, is concerned with what they do to lead and direct the prayer themselves.

Each year builds on the previous year so expectations are not repeated each year. Instead it is assumed that what they can do in one year e.g. in setting up the focus in Year 2 will also be an expectation in the following year unless otherwise stated.

All classes will need to have a box of resources from which the children will choose when setting up the focus for prayer time. What goes in these boxes will vary from year to year to enable progression for the children. Suggestions for the contents are specified in the appendix at the end.



Where it is suggested that year groups lead whole liturgies or prayer time, the expectation would be that sufficient planning and preparation time is given. There is no stipulation for particular planning formats/ language for parts of the worship, schools should use their own preference for planning sheets. However, there are some examples in the appendix which could be used. Also all of the expectations for the year group would not need to be present in every liturgy. The expectations should, however, be covered during the year.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

During Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, all leadership, however small, will lay the foundations for leading on a larger scale in Key Stage 2.

The expectation for these younger children is that all of the following will relate to their own class and class prayer time.



NURSERY and FOUNDATION STAGE

Children are just beginning their journey through primary school and have limited understanding and knowledge of their faith at this point in their school life. They can, however, begin to take a very simple part in their own class prayer time which will lay the foundations for leadership as they progress through school.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children experience a regular, simple structure for collective worship
- Children begin to name the elements of the liturgical focus which is present in their classroom such as; Bible, candle, crucifix etc
- Children can choose people and things they want to pray for at appropriate times in the liturgy or class prayer time.
- Children can begin to place items on the liturgical focus under the direction of an adult. These could include things they have brought in themselves, items from a story sack relevant to the Gospel.

Faith practise:

- Make and say the sign of the cross
- Say our morning prayer
- Recognise Jesus on the cross
- Recognise Mary from a painting and know who she is
- Join in a simple formal prayer and say thank you to God
- Share the sign of peace
- Talk about the Christmas and Easter stories
- Bow at the name of Jesus
- Begin to recognise the 'Our Father', 'Hail Mary' and the prayers of the Rosary
- Prayer response: bidding prayer response

YEAR ONE

Children are now becoming more religiously literate and will be able to take a slightly more active part in the choices that are made in prayer time, thus laying further foundations for leadership as they progress.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:



- Children recognise and can name the elements of the liturgical focus e.g. crucifix, candle, Bible
- Children will be able to say why these are appropriate for inclusion (possibly also suggesting what is not appropriate)
- Children should be able to finish a prayer, given the first part e.g. Thank you, God, for ...
- Children should be able to help set up the focus for prayer using given elements and direction e.g. "Please place the crucifix and Bible..."
- Children should be able to bring suitable elements to add to the focus at specific times of the year, under the guidance of the teacher. (This will help them to begin to appreciate the liturgical year so, e.g. they could bring flowers at Easter to represent new life)

Faith practise:

- Say the school's daily prayers
- Recognise Mary from a painting and know who she is
- Retell the Christmas and Easter stories
- Say sorry to God
- Use my own words to pray for others
- Sit quietly and think about Jesus
- Recognise the 'Our Father', 'Hail Mary' and the Rosary
- Prayer response: 1st reading response, Gospel reading response



YEAR TWO

As they approach the end of a key stage, the children will be developing a deeper understanding of their faith and what is and is not appropriate during prayer time. They will be familiar with leadership roles in the classroom such as monitor duties and will easily transfer these to prayer time and liturgy. A box of items to use for the prayer focus will now need to be available for the children. These should just include the elements relevant to that month's/season's liturgical theme so that they do not have to choose between too many things.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children will be able to set up the focus for class prayer, choosing items from a given set of resources, and be able to explain why they have chosen each item.
- Children will be able to write their own simple prayers for inclusion in the liturgy. These will be written to a formula and will encompass prayers of intercession, praise, thanks and regret.
- Occasionally children may lead by reading a simple text or by choosing an appropriate hymn with guidance.

Faith practise:

- Show you how to make the sign of the cross
- Lead class prayers
- Know and say a morning and evening prayer
- Say simple grace before and after meals
- Know how to join in with the bidding prayers
- Ask known saints to pray for us (e.g. school saint, St George, St Teresa, St Blaise)
- Know when to genuflect
- Begin to join in with saying 'The Our Father', 'The Hail Mary' and the Rosary'
- Recognise the 'Glory Be' prayer



Lower Key Stage Two

The children, through their involvement in class prayer time in the lower key stages, will now have some experience of the things that leaders of liturgy need to do.

During years three and four, the children will build on this and, by the end of year 4, should be able to plan and lead a liturgy or prayer time for their own class.



YEAR THREE

As children enter the Key Stage 2 phase of their primary years, they will be increasing in confidence and experience, having been part of many liturgies and different forms of prayer in Key Stage One. Many of them will be preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Expectations are in addition to what is expected at the end of Key Stage One.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children will be able to write and read their own prayers in different liturgies with appropriate guidance from the teacher.
- Children will be able to read the readings during different liturgies.
- Children choose a 'gather' (or 'welcome') and a 'going forth' (or 'witness')
- Children can choose from a selection of readings provided for the 'Word'

Faith practise:

- Say the 'Hail Mary', 'Our Father' and the 'Glory Be'
- Say the 'Act of Sorrow'
- Participate in the Rosary correctly
- Pray for people who have died
- Know and join in with some of the responses at Mass, e.g. 'I confess'
- Take part in the Gospel procession
- Sign my forehead, lips and heart to greet the Gospel
- Know why I must genuflect
- Use holy water properly



YEAR FOUR

By the end of Year 4 children should be much more confident in their understanding of what constitutes prayer time and simple liturgy. By this stage in their school life they need to be laying the foundations for leading whole school liturgy which is the expectation by the end of Key Stage Two. For this reason they should, by the end of Year 4, be able to plan and lead a simple prayer time or liturgy for their own class. Teacher support is essential but the main elements of the liturgy will be organised and led by the children.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children should be able to lead their own class liturgy with appropriate support from an adult or faith leader - e.g. they may need to be provided with links within the liturgy.
- Children should be able to set up an appropriate focus
- Children should be able to choose appropriate hymns or music from a selection
- Children should be able to choose appropriate readings to suit a given theme with some guidance.
- Children should begin to develop skills in the breaking of the Word e.g. through reflection, drama, art, explanation or dance

Faith practise:

- Take part in periods of quiet stillness and thought
- Know that Jesus is truly present in Holy Communion
- Receive Jesus with respect (if sacrament made)
- Respond to simple psalm prayers and blessings
- Write own bidding prayers
- Begin to lead the prayer of the Rosary with others
- Organise a simple Act of Class Worship
- Tell you the Church's Liturgical Seasons
- Prayer responses: Recognise and join in with many of the responses in Mass, e.g. Eucharistic Prayers; The Sanctus, Orate Frates, Lamb of God, The Mystery of Faith etc



Upper Key Stage Two

As children approach the end of their primary school life, they will be well equipped to start planning and leading liturgy on a wider scale. They should be able to choose all of the elements that are appropriate to different liturgies and put them together to create worship for children other than their classmates.



YEAR FIVE

In Year 5 children should build on the experience of planning and leading liturgy and prayer time for their own class and begin to create liturgy suitable for another class. Teacher support will still be an element in this as guidance will be needed to ensure that all of the elements are appropriate to the theme and the audience but, if the children have had the experience of developing their leadership skills throughout the school, then planning and leading for others is the next step.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children should be able to plan and lead a liturgy appropriate to another class, with guidance where necessary.
- Children should be able to select from a range of resources which relate to the whole liturgical year to set up an appropriate focus for a particular theme. Some guidance should be offered.
- Children should be able to select elements that promote a spiritual atmosphere e.g. music at the beginning and end of a liturgy.
- Children should be able to choose a theme and appropriate readings with guidance where needed.
- Children should be able to choose hymns appropriate to the theme from a wider selection.
- Children should begin to explore creative elements within liturgy e.g. thoughts for going forth, planting seeds to represent new life, pouring water to signify forgiveness and cleansing etc.
- Children should continue to develop skills in the breaking of the Word using a wider range of ideas e.g. reflection, poetry, dance, drama, art.

Faith practise:

- Know the psalms in Mass come from the Old Testament
- Share in the people's prayers and responses in the Mass
- Organise class Acts of Worship
- Say what Catholics believe based on their Baptismal Vows
- Have an understanding of the Holy Rosary, lead prayers and share in its mysteries
- Prayer responses: Gloria, Apostles' Creed



YEAR SIX

By the time they are in Year 6 children should be able to plan and lead a key stage act of worship. Some children will lead whole school prayer time or liturgy. This will involve choosing all of the appropriate elements and organising the liturgy from beginning to end and so, an expectation is that they understand the components of liturgy. They may wish to ask for adult support or for an adult to play a part in the liturgy at some point, however. This would be part of their planning.

Expectations at this stage

Collective worship:

- Children should understand and be able to include the main components of a liturgy.
- Choose a theme appropriate to the liturgical year
- Select and set up an appropriate focus
- Use correct liturgical vocabulary where necessary
- Choose appropriate readings suited to their theme
- Choose appropriate hymns suited to their theme
- Include traditional prayers as well as their own prayers.
- Use a variety of prayer types such as meditation, liturgical dance and music.
- Select and use different creative elements within their liturgy e.g. stones during Lent, flowers or seeds at Easter.
- Children should be more confident in their ability to explain or reflect on the Word so that it is relevant to their audience.

Faith practise:

- Organise, plan and deliver key stage and whole school acts of worship
- Lead key stage and whole school prayers of the Rosary
- Have an understanding of the Psalms from the Old Testament
- To recognise the fruits of the Spirit in their and others' lives
- Prayer responses: Children know all Mass responses

