



### Mission Statement

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
We  
'Grow together in Christ'  
'Live and learn in God's love'  
by  
Developing the potential of every individual  
by providing the best education through experience of  
our Catholic, Christian Community within which  
all members can grow in faith.

### Rothwell St Mary's Collective Worship Policy

*'This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment'.*

#### The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. At Rothwell St. Mary's the acts of Collective Worship aim to further our spiritual development to help us to live and learn in God's love. Through Collective Worship we aim to give glory, honour, praise and thank our Lord and we do this through whole school assemblies, key stage assemblies and classroom worship. We aim to incorporate the four parts of Collective Worship and we believe that Collective Worship is central to our Catholic Faith.

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.<sup>1</sup> (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 headteacher.

### **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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- 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.

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 reflect the Catholic character of our school
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore our 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 which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To take time out '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.<sup>3</sup> In order to do this, we aim to:

- Keep it short
- Make it regular
- Keep it simple
- Provide variety
- Get children involved
- Allow the children to gather together, listen to shared scripture and reflect on this then go forth to carry out The Word of God

<sup>3</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Monday – Whole School reflection on the ethos statement, story, time to contemplate and reflect with prayers. (20mins)

Tuesday – Contemplation and reflection on the statement of the week linked to SEAL / Mass for KS2 (20mins)

Wednesday – Individual class Collective Worship (10 mins FS & KS1 / 15min KS2)

Thursday - Individual class Collective Worship / Mass for KS2 (10 mins FS & KS1 / 15min KS2)

Friday – Collective worship and celebration Assembly (30mins)

## The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' and Catholic statements to live by, significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- With the children in mind and wherever possible by the children themselves so they prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way

## Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc
- in class Collective Worship files
- through our 'Glimpses of God' page on our school website
- on assembly rota's in the staffroom

## Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the RE Co-ordinating team to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities to organise and lead worship. This is done in conjunction with the Governing body at The Catholic Life Committee meetings.

## Resources

All classes have a range of objects in a collective worship box, that can be used for Collective Worship including coloured drapes, prayer books, a Bible, a Crucifix, links to their Class Saint, candles and other objects to focus prayer and spirituality.

Music – Head Teacher's 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 Welcome Table. Planning Masses with Children"* which contains the complete text of the Church's *'Directory for Masses with Children'* 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.

In school, therefore, the **'Liturgy of the Word'**, rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

At **Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word

At **Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

### **The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

Mrs Katie Hartley, Miss Siobhan Leonard and Mrs Seanna Sweeney are the co-ordinators for Collective Worship.

### **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 every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role (Fr. Eamon McGeogh & Mrs Claudette Farias-Fagg).

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

- 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 headteacher 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 headteacher 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 headteacher 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 school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

### **Professional development / Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising inservice 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

## Appendix 2

### **Diocesan Statement on Collective Worship**

It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of liturgy, worship and prayer which:

- names and celebrates God present and active in authentic human experience
- is educative
- is within our Catholic tradition

The purpose of these experiences is:

- to give honour and praise to God
- to develop the school as a community of faith
- to assist pupils in developing their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- to witness to the community and the wider world

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

in order to ensure that the collective worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

### **Policy monitoring and review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff every two years.

The Pupil Support/Catholic Life Committee of the governing body monitors our R.E policy on an annual basis and Our Catholic Life Committee monitors Collective Worship in school. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. This Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the religious education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. The nominated governor require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the religious education programme that we teach in our school.

This policy was reviewed by Siobhan Leonard November 2017

This policy was agreed by Governors 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018