



# Holy Rood Catholic Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Mission Statement

*Live, Love, Learn*

*Holy Rood is proud to be a Catholic school, where Christ is at the heart of our community.*

*Working in close partnership with the home and parish, we share and celebrate our faith, while respecting and accepting those from other traditions and cultures.*

*We acknowledge each person's uniqueness and aim to provide a happy Christian environment where everyone can thrive.*

*We are committed to delivering a broad and balanced education, where each child can become the best they can be. We seek to nurture self-esteem in everyone and develop a sense of responsibility for ourselves and others.*

*We strive for excellence in all we do.*

### The Nature of Collective Worship

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.) 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 an act of collective worship and an 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.

### The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

All children are welcome to participate in Collective Worship irrespective of their denomination and to actively participate in the liturgical life of the school.

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

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.

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
- Those from other faith backgrounds – 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 contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- 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 reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To explore their own beliefs

### **Principles**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit
- 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 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 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins 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 school**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Led by</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Whole school assembly based on 'Statements to live by'	HT/RE Coordinator or a member of the SLT in their absence
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hymn Practice (whole school)	Staff, on a half termly rota

<b>Wednesday</b>	Key Stage Assembly- focusing on the following Sunday's Gospel reading or one of the British Values.	Class teachers on a weekly rota
<b>Thursday</b>	Collective Worship in classroom, using guidance documents.	Class teacher
<b>Friday</b>	Good work/Celebration (Merit) assembly	Class teachers on a weekly rota

### **The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with referring to the Church's liturgical year, '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 a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders and resources
- through written plans
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, and reflections photographs.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year, the school's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated by the R.E. Coordinator to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The children are encouraged to lead collective worship both at school and in church and this is monitored and recorded through photographs and feedback.

### **Resources**

Children's Liturgy, online CAFOD resources, other web-based assembly sites and a range of books which are kept on a shelf in the Art and Science room.

### **Voluntary Worship and Retreats**

Advent – Travelling cribs

Lent – The Stations of the Cross, Lenten bags

### **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight special occasions. 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 maximized. When preparing these celebrations, reference will be made to the 'Directory for Masses with Children' as a basis for good practice.

Eucharistic Celebrations are both in school and in church celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Damian Humphries or a priest delegated by him, these include:

- Mass to mark the start of a new academic year

- Holy Days of Obligation
- Christmas Mass
- Mass to celebrate the end of the year and Year 6 leaving.

At all these celebrations both parents and parishioners are invited; to help foster links between home school and parish.

At Key Stage 1 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting 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

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by the RE Coordinators and updated every 2 years.

Approved by Chair of Governors



Approved Date: April 2024

Review Date: April 2026