

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



*The family of St Mary Magdalen's is
Centred on Christ to create
Inquisitive individuals
Who feel empowered to
Engage in the world in which they live*



Collective Worship POLICY

Date of Implementation: Autumn 2022

Date of Review: Autumn 2024

Signed Collective Worship Lead: *Mrs. A. Sharp*

Signed Link Governor: *Father Marc Lyden Smith*

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'

Our school mission statement declares that St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School is centred on Christ and therefore we endeavour to have Christ at the centre of everything we do.

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 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.

In this school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School

Worship in St Mary Magdalen's School is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using 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.'

Principles

All acts of worship in St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

- *Staff gather together twice a week led by a member of staff with a prayer.*
- *Each class has a daily Act of Worship.*
- *A child led act of worship is celebrated at the end of each R. E. topic.*
- *Each Monday, whole school collective worship led by Head teacher (Deputy Head teacher).*
- *Prayers before meals are said each lunchtime in each class.*
- *End of school prayers are said daily in each class.*

- *Each class is timetabled to hold a Class Liturgical Prayer to which families are invited.*
- *Spontaneous prayer is encouraged throughout the week.*
- *A Progression of Prayer is followed from EYFS to Year 6.*

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead collective worship. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Regular use of Twitter and evidenced in Catholic Life file.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship monitoring form.

End of topic Respond booklets

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified.

Resources

- *Ten Ten Resources*
- *Mark 10 Mission videos and songs*
- *Candles*
- *Focus Table*
- *Music*
- *Images*
- *Prayer books (staff)*

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Retreats

- *LKS2, 1 day – transition – Emmaus Youth Village*

Other opportunities

- *Programme of attending mass at St Mary Magdalen Parish Church*

- *Diocesan Festival Year 6* 5
- *Class Liturgies*
- *Newcastle Cathedral visits*
- *Head boy and girl attend mass for the Trust at St Bede's*

Eucharist

- *as above*

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs A Sharp

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator 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.