

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

**LA SALETTE CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**PRAYER, LITURGY
AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

Autumn 2025

La Salette Catholic School Mission Statement

**“Loved by Jesus and Our Lady of La Salette,
we learn and grow together in joy and friendship.”**

1 Worshipping Nature of our School

1.1

Collective worship offers all pupils the chance to explore and understand the values at the heart of their ethos. From forgiveness and humility, to gratitude and justice, collective worship gives pupils a space and time to reflect. If it is a part of a school's routine, collective worship provides a shared language of values to build a close-knit cohesive community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, the time set aside in the school day for reflection provides everyone with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

In schools with a designated religious character, like Catholic schools, collective worship is far more than a statutory requirement. It is crucial to the spiritual life of the school and to pupils' moral and spiritual development. Collective worship is an important part of a Catholic school's distinctive ethos. Taking part in daily collective worship helps build community cohesion by creating a consistent structure around the core values and symbols of Christianity and develops the pupils understanding of the Catholic faith.

The worshipping nature of our school is expressed in a variety of ways including but not limited to :

- Prayer and liturgy
- Assemblies
- Celebration of The Eucharist and Sacraments
- Charity and community work
- Listening to visiting speakers.
- Reflecting on the various aspects of school life and sharing learning experiences.
- Engaging and involving the whole school community in reviewing and renewing the Mission Statement of our school.
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2 Purposes

2.1 We believe that Collective Worship in our school should be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character. It gives children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds; in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. Collective Worship 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 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 celebrate our faith through not just our words, but our actions, through the Gospel values of **Joy! Love! And Friendship!**

3 Role of the R.E Leader

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship & Religious Education
- Ensuring that there is a plan for Collective Worship which forms part of the school development plan.
- Plan and present an overview of Liturgy for the year;
- Plan the liturgy for whole school occasions and liturgical year;
- 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'
- Maintaining and developing effective procedures, monitoring and observing, on occasions, Acts of Collective Worship
- Informing the Head Teacher & Governors of standards and developments in Collective Worship
- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship and encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Acting as a professional support to colleagues in delivering collective worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Diocese of Brentwood
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting / sharing feedback
- Leading and organising professional development and training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Evaluating existing resources and ensuring budgeting efficiently
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.

4 Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	Gospel Assembly – led by Headteacher or Deputy
Tuesday	Class based collective worship, liturgy & prayer – led by class teachers/pupils
Wednesday	Wednesday Word (lead by R.E Leaders in class)
Thursday	Class based collective worship, liturgy & prayer – led by class teachers/pupils Class Assemblies
Friday	Celebration Assembly & Prayer

Collective Worship Resources

La Salette has purchased the TenTen Collective Worship resources. These resources have been introduced from September 2023 to strengthen the quality of provision of prayer, liturgy and child-led collective worship.

4.1 Collective Worship, Prayer and Liturgy:

- Our Assemblies are for the whole school community of children, parents and staff.
- Our school week begins with a whole school Gospel Assembly; the focus of the assembly relates to the Sunday Gospel and is led by the Headteacher using TenTen collective worship resources.
- R.E Leaders (in each class) lead their peers in reflecting on the weeks gospel. Classes discuss the meaning of the gospel and how the Gospel relates to our daily lives. This is undertaken through class collective worship on Tuesdays & Thursdays using TenTen Resources and the Wednesday Word with a weekly PowerPoint presentation provided by the R.E Lead for staff and pupils to use. It is an opportunity for our pupils to discuss their faith and how the Gospel relates to our daily lives.
- At the end of the school week, the whole school comes together in Celebration Assembly lead by the Headteacher or senior staff which links back to the gospel and the schools gospel values of **love, joy and friendship**.
- Twice yearly classes prepare an assembly that parents are warmly encouraged to attend, as this promotes shared understanding, reflection, the sharing of the talents that God has given us and the children's achievements.
- Morning prayers, lunchtime prayers and evening prayers are said in class and led by our R.E leaders and staff. Prayers are differentiated by age group and a list of expected prayers are available on the school website.
- Whole School Masses are celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation and special Feast Days and Celebrations. E.g. La Salette Feast Day 19th September. Masses are celebrated in The Parish Church of Our Lady of La Salette. We also have families who join the parish community for some weekday Masses that run before the school day.
- Seasonal celebrations and school events are also celebrated in the Parish Church.
- The First Communion preparation is Parish based and the whole community takes part in the First Holy Communion celebration.
- We venerate the Shrine of Our Lady Of La Salette on feast days and use religious statues and icons as a focus for our personal reflection.

4.2 Reconciliation Services:

- A service for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered by our priests in the school for years 4, 5 and 6 during Advent and Lent.
- Year R – Year 3 take part in a reflection assembly as part of reconciliation services.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is Parish based.

4.3 Prayer:

- Prayer is woven into the daily life of our school through Collective Worship and within our school liturgy assemblies and faith celebrations. Prayer is planned for but can also happen at any point in the school day. There is a strong pupil involvement in the preparation and presentation of prayer.
- Classes have a specific RE / Prayer area and display as appropriate to the Liturgical calendar or R.E topic.
- All Governing Body Meetings and Staff Meetings begin with shared Prayer.
- There is a children's prayer area in the inner lobby where children write and offer prayers.
- Children are encouraged to share music and hymns as part of our shared prayer life in the school.

4.4 Themes:

We take the themes of our assemblies from the Catholic faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Liturgical year. We follow the “Come and See” Religious education programme for Yrs. 1-6 and our displays and themes of Assemblies follow this scheme. Our EYFS pupils use the RED – To Know You More Clearly (September 2023) and their class assemblies and themes link to this new planning. Governors’ attendance at our assemblies and school events is always welcome.

4.5 Policy Review

The Governing Body of La Salette Catholic Primary School annually review this policy in consultation with the headteacher.