



ST. EDWARD'S CATHOLIC **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

WORSHIP POLICY

AdoptedChair of
Governors) Updated Spring Term 2020

**Through God's Grace
We Grow And Learn**

St. Edward's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Introduction

The governors of the school see liturgical celebrations and the daily act of collective worship as the focal point of the school life. It is expected that this worship will challenge and enrich the lives of both staff and children.

Worship is open to and planned for all children regardless of race, religion, colour, gender, disability, ethnic or national origin.

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

Definition

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.

Aims and Objectives

Collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- respond to and celebrate life
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- enrich religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding and development
- reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate fully
- take time out to "wonder at", "to come to terms with" and "to give worth to"

All acts of worship in our 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 and aptitude in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church.

Worship will take a variety of forms which will include:

- Sacramental celebration
- Other celebration e.g. Reconciliation Service
- Reflection, including retreats
- Silent prayer
- Hymns and scriptural readings
- Involvement of cross-curricular activities e.g. art and drama
- Whole school and class groupings

Teacher Responsibilities

All teachers will lead the various forms of Collective Worship. Monday and Thursday collective worship will follow the Diocesan Guidelines for Collective Worship. The Headteacher/RE co-ordinator may also invite others to assist in acts of worship. Some children will lead whole school collective worship and all children will lead class based collective worship.

All staff are expected to attend all acts of worship and require the permission of the Head to not attend.

Teaching staff will:

- Plan and lead collective worship;
- Will ensure all pupils are included in worship irrespective of their faith.

It is our policy to encourage parents and parishioners to attend and participate in the Collective Acts of Worship where appropriate.

All staff and governors are expected to role model and set examples in behaviour.

Equal Opportunities

A policy for equal opportunities exists and is followed in the school. All children will be given the same opportunities to take part in collective worship and liturgical celebrations.

Parents have the right to remove their child from collective worship on religious grounds if they so wish.

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually or earlier at the request of the Head and/or governing body.

