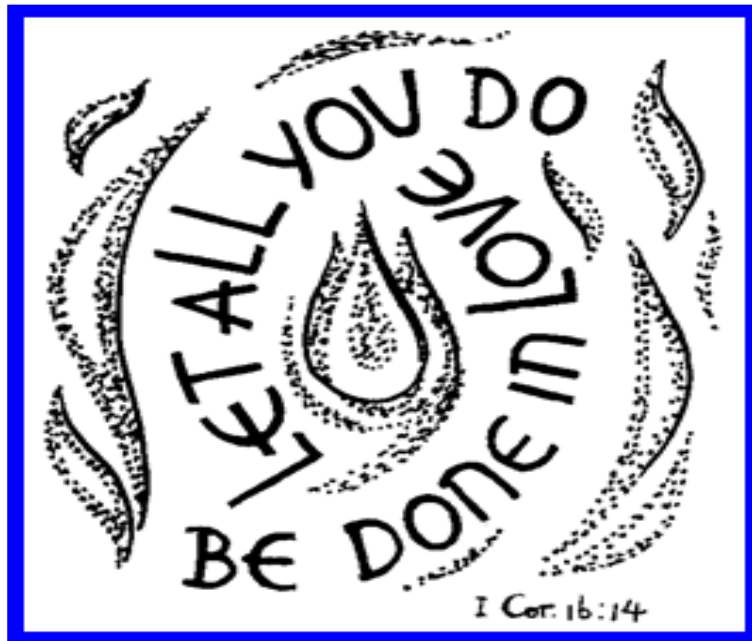


St Edward's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Presented to Governors: February 2023

Adopted by Governors: February 2023

Review date: February 2025

“Let all you do be done in love” Cor 1 14:16

Introduction

Within our Catholic community, where prayer, liturgy and reflection are an important part of our daily life, the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness are shared with all.

As Catholic Christians, we are guided by the values of the Gospel and the beliefs of our own faith tradition. At the same time, we are respectful of the beliefs of others.

We celebrate achievement in all aspects of school and home life – recognising everyone is unique and a child of God.

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To promote in children a sense of awe and wonder for God’s created world and to have an awareness of their unique place in it
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond 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 positive attitudes

All acts of Worship in this school give glory and honour to God. We provide children with 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 and wherever possible help to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and settings

In our school, Collective Worship takes place daily, either as a whole school or within each class. Prayers are said at the beginning/end of each school day and before lunch.

Monday	KS1 Assembly (Bible Stories including Old Testament / miracles / parables) KS2 Assembly (Based on weekly gospel and led by Mission Team)
Tuesday	Themed task linked to weekly gospel Example of Collective Worship themes Friendship/ Forgiveness/ Compassion/Trust/ Justice/ Thankfulness/ Peace/ Hope
Wednesday	Reflection on Pope Francis quote of the week
Thursday	Compliments Book – reflect and comment on how a friend has shown demonstrated the school virtues
Friday	Whole school hymn practise Whole school celebration assembly

Prayer Room

The Prayer Room is a multifunctional room. It has a permanent religious display that the Mission Team organise often reflecting the Liturgical Calendar. The Prayer room is used for Mission Team meetings, Chaplaincy supported teaching and quiet prayer and reflection for the pupils and staff.

Prayer table/focus area

A special area is set-aside in each classroom and also at the front of school near to the office to reflect the liturgical calendar e.g October – Holy Rosary. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. During whole school or key stage collective worship, a special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle, liturgical cloth may be used.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school take place termly and highlight a special occasion or reflect the season of the Liturgical year. These Masses are a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. Mass is celebrated in school and at our local parish

of St Edward's. The RE Subject Lead, staff and children prepare the music, prayers and readings for these celebrations.

Legal Requirements

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 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. 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 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, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring Collective worship takes place rests with the Local Academy Committee, in consultation with the head teacher.

Withdrawal from Religious Education Lessons & / Or Worship

This school will recognise the legal right of a parent to have their child withdrawn from Religious Education lessons and also acts of Worship. However, out of Christian Mission, it would be expected of the Head Teacher to have some dialogue with the parents of such a child to ensure they understand what they wish to withdraw from and inform them of its importance and centrality in a Catholic School helping to inform their decision – including why they have chosen a Catholic School to send their child to. Any children withdrawn will have alternative learning provided.

Monitoring and Review

At least 3 times per year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated 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. Collective Worship is recorded in "Collective Worship Books", celebrated through displays and collections of pupil's contributions such as prayers, reflections, photographs etc.

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and is to be evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.