St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Plumstead
Policy on Collective Worship

Introduction

The following policy outlines how St Patrick's Catholic Primary School meets the legal and Diocesan requirements for collective worship and aims to provide quality experiences of prayer and liturgy that support pupils' spiritual development.

Our mission statement states that we aim to **'grow and learn together in our understanding of God and the world He created'** and that '**Prayer and worship are at the heart of all we do'**.

Prayer and collective worship celebrate the life-giving presence of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our lives. It is how we, as a community of faith, come together to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. We want to enable every member of the school community to develop their understanding of what it means to be part of the life of prayer and worship at the heart of a vibrant Catholic community.

The Gospel values are the basis of our Collective Worship: *Faithfulness and Integrity, Dignity &*

Compassion, Humility & Gentleness, Purity & Holiness, Tolerance & Peace.

Liturgy in a Catholic School should provide an opportunity for every member of the school community to:

- Learn to pray by giving praise, thanks, and intercession to God, drawing on the life-giving grace of the Word in the scriptures and the sacramental life of the church.
- Use both the traditional prayers of the Catholic Church, the prayers of the children and many other sources of prayer.
- Come to know and acknowledge the presence of God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Continue to nurture a relationship with God through words, symbols, song, gestures, dance and silence.
- Gain knowledge by taking part in an educational experience that is rooted in prayer and the worship of God.
- Contemplate the mystery and transcendence of God who is ever close to us and ever beyond us.
- Develop a sense of wonder and awe at the presence of God amongst us and the gift of life itself.
- Explore the beliefs of the Catholic faith community and their own beliefs.
- Experience what it means to belong to, or take part in, the worshipping community of the Church.

- Acknowledge joys and sorrows, the ordinary and darker side of life as part of a relationship with God.
- Learn how the Liturgy of the Church is structured and the meaning of the different parts of the liturgical rites.
- Be able to make links between communal prayer, liturgy, and daily life.
- Gain the confidence to support others with their prayer life.
- Develop the skills required to independently plan and prepare liturgies and take a lead role in the collective worship in the school.

Policy Aims:

To provide children with the opportunity to:

- Praise and worship God.
- Celebrate God working within us.
- Understand the need for, and importance of prayer.
- Reflect the values of the Gospels.
- Respond to, and participate in, worship taking place in our school and local Church as well as having a consciousness of being part of a family of school in the deanery (inter-deanery sports events) as well as Diocesan events at St. George's Cathedral.
- Plan their own personal contributions to Collective Worship.
- Develop a community spirit, a common Catholic ethos, and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues and come to understand how Gospel values underpin Catholic moral and social teaching.

Legal requirements

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement for all schools and must be distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools, this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Southwark. We believe that Collective Worship is central to the Mission of the school and we share this with all new and existing parents, however we acknowledge a parent's legal right to withdraw their child from all, or any part, of Collective Worship.

In addition, Foundation governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools and our governing body is committed to this task. (The Wellbeing (RE) Committee meets termly)

What does Collective Worship look like at our school?

We meet the stated aims by providing a variety of different forms of liturgy and Collective Worship on a daily and weekly basis. The Collective Worship provision is in accordance with the Liturgical seasons of the Church's year. The usual timetable at St. Patrick's is as follows:

Collective Worship at St. Patrick's	
Daily	**Morning Prayer** 8.55-9.05am Whole school recorded collective worship prayer following the gospel theme of the week. This is led by the Headteacher and children and incorporates aspects of the Ten Ten daily prayer when this is relevant. This whole school collective worship includes the praying of the Morning Offering. **Lunch-time** Grace before meals- said or sung in the class before the children depart for lunch. **Evening Prayer** Prayer at the end of the day (There are opportunities for the children to share their own prayers during class collective worship and at the prayer time beginning RE lessons.)
Monday	**Key Stage Two Assembly – led by Headteacher supported by prayer leaders.** 9-9.30am **Key Stage One Assembly- led by Headteacher** 2.30-2.55pm The content and messages are linked to the Gospel and Liturgical year. Special feasts or Holy days are also focused on during these prayer assemblies, alongside any fundraising initiatives for Catholic charities such as Catholic Children's Society, CAFOD or Mary's Meals. This assembly will include themes linked to British Values (particularly around parliamentary democracy and knowledge and respect for other Faiths.)
Tuesday	**Daily Prayer routines are followed**
Wednesday	**The Celebration of Holy Mass with the parish in the school chapel.** **9:00-9.30am** All classes from Year R to Year 6, share termly in the celebration of Holy Mass by participating, by preparing and leading the scripture readings and singing, by leading the bidding prayers and offertory procession. Parents are invited to attend. (Timings and a rota are agreed with the Parish priest (Father Fortunatus) for Whole school Mass on holy days and significant dates in the school calendar (beginning of the school year, St. Patrick's Day etc.) (Parents are invited to attend) **Wednesday Word/ Look! Celebration of the Word** **Eg.** https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=152.3 Led by Class Teacher and Prayer Leaders (As part of class timetable and followed through in morning work.) This Collective worship will be delivered in Key stages; it follows the

	Wednesday word/ Look resources and focuses on the Sunday's Gospel. **10:10.30am** **Praise and singing worship –** led by Mrs Catterall and KS2 staff in preparation for their mass or class assembly. This will combine hymn singing, prayers and themes that link to the Wednesday Mass or extend themes from the Monday or class assembly.
Thursday	**Class collective worship led by children** **8.55: 9.10am** The children play a key role using the whole school model with the support of the class teacher. It is linked to the morning theme sequence of the week.
Friday	**Whole School collective worship assembly led by a class.** **9:9.30am** The theme is linked to the RE curriculum with a strong scriptural base. Children are involved in the creation of drama sequences and praise dance routines as well as writing the prayers shared collectively throughout. (Parents are invited to attend.) **Celebration and praise assembly (Monthly)** **9:9.30am** The whole school gathers in the hall to celebrate the month, and to Share special achievements of individuals and classes recorded in the school's merit book. **Friday Lunchtimes** Prayer leaders follow a rota for managing the chapel for voluntary private prayer time for groups of children from each class
Special observations and celebrations	Additional opportunities for Collective Worship take place throughout the year: **Ash Wednesday** – the whole school attends mass in St. Patrick's Parish Church to receive the ashes. **Lent-Penitential service** – prior to individual/ voluntary availability of confessions in the school chapel. **Stations of the Cross**- are led by Lower KS2 in a solemn reenactment of Our Lord's passion. **May Procession** – the children process to the offer flowers at the foot of the statue of Our Blessed Lady crowned by the Reception class and decorated beautifully for the occasion. (Flowers are then gathered and arranged on the lady alter in the parish.) **May and October** – additional Rosary prayer sessions in the chapel. **Christmas** – KS2 lead an Advent Carol service in the church.

Roles and Responsibility : Ms. Murphy (headteacher) , supported by Sarah Hesketh (RE subject Leader) are responsible for organizing collective worship across the school.

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