



St Ambrose Catholic Primary Academy

'Follow the example of Jesus'

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by the Governing body in September 2022

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Signed _____ Headteacher

To be reviewed and revised in September 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

To follow the example of Jesus

To do this we will:

- Show respect by being friendly to everyone, looking after everything that God has created and treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Christ centred)
- Provide a high quality education which enables everyone to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. (Education)
- Celebrate the school's place in the community and the wider world. (Community)

Objectives:

(Christ Centred)

- Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations.
- Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education, through a well taught and resourced Come and See programme.
- Encourage all to develop their understanding of and relationship with God, while at the same time respecting that others choose to express their faith in different ways.
- Be positive role models, who treat each other with respect and are willing to forgive and be forgiven.

(Education)

- As teachers, to be both inspirational and creative so that every child's achievements are recognised and celebrated and that they are encouraged to become independent learners.
- To provide a safe and happy learning environment so that every child feels valued and secure within our school family.
- To encourage regular communication with parents by creating a positive and caring support network for the extended school family.

(Community)

- To join with the parish and local community to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.
- To enhance the curriculum by uniting as one all of the generations in the community and fostering mutual respect.
- To provide opportunities for the children to visit places of interest and experience a range of different cultural events in order for them to gain a better appreciation of the world around them and to 'fire' their own aspirations.
- To participate in charitable activities and be able to empathise with the needs of others.

Introduction

Our School Mission Statement states that we should:-

Follow the example of Jesus

In order to fulfil this Mission Statement and the recommendations of the Bishops' Conference, St Ambrose Catholic Primary School places great importance upon the Daily Act of Worship.

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents and pupils the manner in which Collective Worship will be delivered in this school.

Aims:

Collective Worship at St Ambrose aims to:-

- Create a caring, Catholic Community within which all feel welcome, valued and respected and in which the faith life of each individual will be nurtured and developed according to the values and teachings of the Christian Gospels.
- Provide experiences of a loving and worshipping community.
- Provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.
- Give opportunities for pupils and staff to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Give pupils and staff opportunities to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered.
- Promote a common ethos and shared value.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

The Character of Collective Worship in a Catholic School

Collective Worship in a Catholic School, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character.

It will reflect the tradition of the Church and will have Christ at its heart.

Our policy at St Ambrose is to try to ensure that we are both pro-active and reactive.

Proactive is the sense of planning and anticipating what is appropriate for all pupils to know, understand and be able to reflect upon.

Reactive is the sense that we shall be able to react to people's life situations, and the joys and sorrows, the hopes and uncertainties which are experienced therein, with warmth, patience, understanding, love and hopefully a little wisdom.

The Legal Requirements

1. A daily Act of Collective Worship must be provided for all pupils in school.
2. The Act must occur in school time, but not necessarily at the beginning of the school day.
3. The whole school need not be present at the time of Collective Worship.
4. All Acts of Collective Worship, whether 'broadly Christian' or not must take account of :
 - The pupils' age and aptitudes.
 - Their family background.
5. The Headteacher, in consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for all pupils every day.

The Personal and the Collective

Collective Worship contributes to the knowledge, awareness and understanding of each individual pupil.

It contributes to a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values in the school as a whole and in this way provides a secure framework in which pupils may develop their own spiritual and moral values and commitments.

It should include times of silence when pupils may pray privately according to their own faith and traditions or when they may reflect or meditate.

Features of Collective Worship

It should seek to develop:

- A sense of reverence and devotion.
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- A sense of transience and constant change.
- A sense of pattern, sequence and change.
- A sense of identity, uniqueness and self-worth.
- An intuitive awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, good and evil etc.

The Programme of Collective Worship at St Ambrose:-

At St Ambrose, Collective Worship takes place in the following activities:-

- Through 'Come and See'.
- Daily class worship and prayers.
- Whole School class assemblies.
- School Masses and Celebration of the Sacraments.

The timing and organisation of daily Collective Worship is flexible.

It need not be held at the start of the school day.

There may be a single Act of Worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different classes or year groups.

Collective Worship may take place in the classroom, the hall, the church or the outdoors; in fact it may take place wherever a group are gathered and have the urge to praise God.

Each class teacher has allocated time each day (see class time-tables), the time allowance being in line with policy i.e. the specified time for the age of the child.

Once a week the Act of Collective Worship takes place as part of a whole school assembly. The other days it takes place in class groups or, at times, with classes coming together to worship.

Each week at St Ambrose, the whole school comes together to emphasise the unity of our community. This assembly is usually led by the Headteacher. It takes the format of formal prayers followed by an Act of Collective Worship. The focus can be based on the 'Wednesday Word' – sharing Sunday's Gospel, on a local or national theme or on one of our school values. Appropriate resources are displayed on a focus table. School announcements are then made and presentations for good work, behaviour, attendance etc.

The Character of Collective Worship & Some Practical Guidelines:

Collective Worship must be appropriate to the pupils. Provided that, taken as a whole, an Act of Worship which is broadly Christian reflects the tradition of Christian belief, it need not contain only Christian material.

It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

Age-related groupings allow the content of Collective Worship to be targeted more closely to the pupils' needs.

A Collective Worship proforma is available from the Archdiocesan Website (in CED Planners) and in the 'Come and See' Respond section of each topic. (See appendix 1a and 1b respectively). These can also be found on the Shared Drive in the RE folder.
At St Ambrose we follow this format.

Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear.

Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

The broad and rich diversity of Worship Practice might include:-

- Introductory music to create the mood and focus attention
- The singing of hymns and songs
- The reading of a short passage of scripture.
- Appreciation of a painting / work of art
- Appreciation of a piece of music.
- Having a talk / story.
- Taking part in a closing prayer.
- The opportunity for children to share their own thoughts and prayers.
- The use of artefacts.
- The use of ICT and multimedia (DVD, power-points etc.)
- Drama and role-play.
- The questioning of pupils and the opportunities for quiet reflection.
- There should be a sense of peace, thankfulness and stillness in the midst of a busy experience.

Pupil involvement

Taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an Act of Collective Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel actively able to identify with the act of worship.

At St Ambrose the children are encouraged to aid the planning process for Collective Worship and contribute ideas and suggestions e.g. theme music, prayers and activities at an age-appropriate level. They should have a sense of belonging and help to create a calm, peaceful and positive atmosphere. All the children are encouraged to participate in the singing of hymns, the prayers and the time for reflection and thanksgiving. The prayers may be formal or informal and be developmental and age-appropriate. (See 'Words for Prayer' pages 30-32 of 'Come and See')

Pupils should find the Act of Collective Worship enjoyable and relevant to their everyday lives and experiences.

Feedback and Evaluation

Feedback from Collective Worship is verbal between staff and children. It is also evident in the way the children respond and behave towards each other and in the general atmosphere and level of expectations within the school.

Right of Withdrawal

If the parent of a pupil in attendance at any maintained school requests that he/she be wholly or partly excluded from attendance at religious worship in school, the pupil will be excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

The Role of the RE Subject Lead

The RE Lead will:-

- Take the lead in policy development and its effective delivery throughout the school.
- Support colleagues in the development of Collective Worship in the classroom and in assemblies.
- Arrange in-service from the Christian Education Department.
- Monitor progress in the delivery and development of Collective Worship.
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of resources for Collective Worship, including the collection of evidence across the school.

Appendix 1a

CED Collective Worship Planner

Appendix 1b

'Come and See' Respond planner

Appendix 1a

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNER

CLASS:	LEADER:	DATE:
THEME OF WORSHIP:		
PREPARATION REQUIRED		
GATHER		
LISTEN		
RESPOND		
GO FORTH		

Appendix 1b

REJOICE	
PLAN	
	ed.
GATHER	
Consider how the children will begin the celebration.	
WORD – LISTEN	
Listen to some scripture from the topic read or enacted in some way.	
RESPONSE	
How will the children respond to all they have heard?	
GOING FORTH	
How will the celebration be concluded?	