



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

*Joyfully, unique in Jesus' family we learn to use our special gifts
to love, serve and make the world a better place.*

Collective Worship Policy			
Approval	Board of Governors	Chair	Anna Murphy-Sullivan
Headteacher	Simon Lennon	Signature	Simon Lennon
Date of last review	February 2020	Date of review	May 2022
Date of next review	May 2024	Maintenance	SIP

In exceptional circumstances this policy is subject to change in accordance with our risk assessment which will override current policy guidelines.

“Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.”

(Matthew 18:19 – 20)

The aims of collective worship

The spiritual development of the children, through the school's formal and informal prayer life is the key aim of our acts of collective worship. We achieve this through

- allowing the children to experience and develop spiritual aspects of worship, praise, prayer and reflection.
- helping us together to appreciate the needs and values of the Catholic community.
- supporting and developing the aims of the RE curriculum and linking to school Gospel Virtues.
- growing together as true disciples of Christ.

Pattern and location of collective worship

- Every Wednesday morning, on special holy days and feast days the whole school gathers to celebrate Mass in the parish church. A multicultural mass is celebrated on our feast day.
- All parents and parishioners are invited to attend this weekly mass.
- On a rota basis parents from each class are invited to sit with their children in a special class mass.
- There is a special mass annually to celebrate First Holy Communion.
- The whole school meets together on Fridays for collective worship followed by a celebration assembly. Each Key Stage has a Liturgy and an assembly on Monday.
- Collective worship takes place in every class on a Tuesday and Thursday. The class prayer table is the focal point. Children are guided on how to plan and lead the worship in class following the steps of Gather, Word, Respond and Mission.
- Informal prayer is part of the daily life of the school for both children and adults. Morning and end of day prayer plus grace before meals are part of everyday life. All meetings begin with a prayer/reflection.
- In whole school worship the readings link directly to the gospel of the following Sunday (Friday worship) and the previous Sunday (Monday worship), in this way pupils deepen their understanding threefold, of the message of the gospel.
- Where possible the readings and stories are linked to the current God Matters theme or Liturgical calendar.
- On Monday Key Stage 1 and 2 worship is led by the KS1/2 teaching staff and the reading is from Sunday's gospel.
- On Friday the teaching staff lead the worship and celebration is led by the headteacher (or SLT member). The Word and the Light of the Lord is welcomed through a sung Gospel Acclamation, or a reflection during Lent. The reading is from Sunday's gospel.
- During whole school worship all children say the Mission Statement, then sing to welcome the Word and the candle symbolising Jesus the Light of the World. Whole School Worship follows the Gather, Word, Respond and Mission format. Moments of quiet reflection are encouraged and a spiritual atmosphere is created.
- 'Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament' is a regular part of the school's prayer life - this takes place both in the church and at the Handmaid's of the Sacred Heart convent chapel.
- Whole school Reconciliation services during Advent and Lent where pupils in years 3-6 get the opportunity to participate in individual confession
- The whole school attend an Easter liturgical service, parents are also invited.
- Each year there is a special Leavers Mass for Year 6 pupils, staff and parents.

- Each year EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 have a Nativity Play for all parents, staff and governors.
- An annual Advent Service led by KS2 is held in the church and local community and all stakeholders are invited to attend.

Music may be used to create an atmosphere of stillness for reflection. The children are encouraged to join in with their own prayers as and when appropriate within the act of collective worship.

Withdrawal of children from Collective Worship

The parental right to request that their child be wholly or partly excused from collective worship will be respected. Parents should inform the Head of School in writing if they wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.

The 1988 Reform Act legislation in relation to collective worship states *“all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.”* Acts of worship are required to be ‘wholly or mainly’ of a broadly Christian character. The Act also specifies that account should be taken of family background, age and aptitude of pupils in determining the content of collective worship.

The Collective Worship at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School reflects the above statement by providing a variety of opportunities for children to worship, praise and pray together using themes which are of a Christian nature.

Support for the School’s Prayer Life

The parish priest and sisters from the Handmaid’s of the Sacred Heart support the school in the delivery of the planned prayer life.

Coordination

The RE Leader will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring collective worship. Guidance is provided to new teachers and coaching/support available for all.

Resources

Each class has its own selection of Bibles, posters, artefacts, prayer books, online and prayer table resources.