



Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

'LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE'

And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

(1. Cor. 13.13)

At St John Fisher, we believe that the word 'love' should inspire every aspect of life in the school.

Here, we believe that love will inspire the school community to demonstrate its care in aiming to achieve the highest possible standards in all aspects of life.

Here, we believe that a loving response to life will enable all pupils, parents, teachers and governors to fulfil their vocation.

Here, we aspire to cultivate in our lives a personal relationship with God, based on love, trust and prayer in an endeavour to foster the growth of faith.

Here, we aspire to develop Christ-like attitudes and behaviour in regard to, for example, all the relationships within our school community

Introduction

At St John Fisher school, we believe that *Collective Worship* 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 a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Worship in a Catholic School is central to its character and fundamental to promoting a sound basis for Christianity to flourish. It is the responsibility of each member of staff to provide quality opportunities for worship so that all our children can participate effectively. It is important to realise that our community is made up of children from committed Catholic homes, nominal Catholic homes, from families which belong to other Christian Churches or from families adhering to no particular religious denomination. This is important to consider when planning any activities throughout school life.

The place of Collective Worship in our school

As a Catholic School we base our worship, ethos, and curriculum around the teachings of Christ. Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. We aim to make the Liturgical life of the school both creative and diverse to ensure that we stimulate and challenge the children in a spiritual way. This policy is to support the Liturgical life of the school by providing guidelines for various acts of worship from the individual, to class prayer times, to Gospel Assemblies, to whole school Masses in school or at Blessed Dominic Barberi church or Sacred Heart church with the Parish and the wider community. We also recognise the rich multicultural society within which we live.

We endorse the belief that *Collective Worship* takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Definitions

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means 'work of the people' and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the worship lived and practised by the Church. Liturgy encompasses all of the seasonal elements of the Church's year (The Liturgical Year), the structure of daily prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) specific rites such as the Funeral Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments. For schools Liturgy is worship which incorporates elements of the rites and rituals, signs and symbols of the Church.

Prayer

Prayer is the means by which we encounter God and develop a relationship with Him: it is a "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God." One of the early fathers of the Church described prayer as "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God." These words of St John Damascene, now found in the catechism, illustrate why in our Catholic school we begin and end each session with a prayer.

Collective Worship

Collective worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Godself, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit. Collective Worship refers not only to whole school gatherings but to those acts of worship which take place in a number of different settings and groupings of people in and around the school.

Mass

For Catholics the Mass is central to practice of the faith. At Mass the Last Supper is remembered but also recreated. Bread and wine are transformed into the body & blood of Jesus. This belief (transubstantiation) is what distinguishes us from many other Christians. This sacrament is above all others because as members of the Church "we receive the Body of Christ and are increasingly being transformed into the Body of Christ".

Aims of Collective Worship

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

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to 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 prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.

Principles

Acts of worship at St John Fisher 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, age-appropriate liturgical experiences, in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- When planning any services, we try and use the Gather Listen Respond and Go Forth model. This model reflects the four parts of Mass, and it is a good basis on which to plan worship. (see next page for more detail)
- When planning worship, it should reflect the theme, or liturgical season of the church where appropriate. Allowing the children to feel differences in the mood of the Liturgical calendar and to experience different Collective Worship to further their spiritual self.
- Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship (with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community)
- As the children grow in age and confidence, they can take a more active part in the planning of Liturgy.

Children in Early Years can prepare the focus- e.g. selecting the right liturgical colour of cloth, placing a candle and a Bible in the centre, with the adult placing any additional props. Using a piece of material made by the children, e.g., using a handprint or foot print.

Children in Key Stage 1 can write simple prayers that can be used, they can help to choose the hymns sung with guidance, so they fit in the theme of the worship. Children can choose the artefacts needed and the correct liturgical cloths as a teaching point or reinforcement.

Children in Key Stage 2 can plan simple acts of worship, reflecting on the four aspects Gather Listen Respond and Go Forth. The children can think about the type of response that would be the most appropriate. They can lead through playing musical instruments and using recorded music in their worship.

Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth

Collective worship in our school may follow the model or variation of the pattern detailed below:

- **Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet/ reflective music, lighted candles, statues, sign of the cross, focus and examination of conscience etc.).
- **Listen** - a reading from the Scriptures (or another suitable source), breaking the word, time to reflect on this and prayers to fit into the theme.
- **Respond** - a ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers, etc.).
- **Go Forth**- the sending out from the celebration, giving the children something to hold onto from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Collective Worship in Class - Teachers lead this with their class. It will be linked to the term's pair of virtues that are being focused on, or it will be based on intentions of individuals.

Whole School/ Key Phase Collective Worship

Monday - Head teacher Virtues Collective Worship

Tuesday - Key Stage One and Two gather for their own Hymn Practice

Wednesday - Teachers lead their own class in sharing the week's Wednesday Word - to be developed for children to lead their own Collective Worship

Thursday - Key Stage One and Two gather separately for their own Collective Worship based upon a saint's feast day, one of our values or a gospel reading.

Friday - We meet to celebrate all the positive things that have taken place in school during the week. Children are recognised for their hard work, as well as the skills and talents that they have shared with us. We also celebrate children's achievements outside of school. All members of our school community are welcome to join us.

Worship through music

Once a week, both Key Stages meet to learn new hymns which we sing in our Mass and assemblies.

Whole School Mass

Fortnightly, we celebrate Mass in our school hall (Covid restrictions mean this may be a Virtual Livestreamed Mass). All members of our school community are welcome to join us. The children lead the liturgy, they write and read their own bidding prayers, and they take on the role of altar servers. All our children demonstrate reverence and respect during our services.

For special Feast days and at other times during the year we also attend Mass at Blessed Dominic Barberi church. Children also lead the Liturgy and take on roles during these Masses too.

Prayer

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age.

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray at other times of the day.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend. The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Parish Masses and Liturgies
- Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation within the Parish supported by the school and a teacher.

Recording Collective Worship

Collective Worship is recorded on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources. Collective Worship is also recorded through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos and Class Prayer Journals.

Resources

Central resources for use by staff are stored in the central resource area of the school. These include books, posters, artefacts etc. as well as Prayer Table resources in each of the classrooms. The traditional prayers of the Church are included in Appendix 1, which can be used to support Collective Worship in school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is monitored by the Leadership Team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff every two years. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school, which will form part of the head teacher's report to governors

The following will be monitored:-

- Time set aside for collective worship;
- Whether the observed practice is consistent with agreed policy;
- Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc.;
- Staff development on collective worship and its impact;
- Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer;
- Impact on pupils and members of the school community;
- Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer;
- Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in worship.

Role of the Coordinator:

The co-ordinator will be responsible for:-

- Formulating a written policy;
- Ensuring there is a development plan for collective worship;
- Ensuring that collective worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils;
- Ensuring that collective worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the Catholic teachings;
- Organising themes for worship;
- Assisting the governors and head teacher in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to collective worship.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to:

- All members of the school community;
- Parish priests
- New members of staff and will form part of their induction;
- New parents, to promote positive attitudes towards collective worship.

Legal Requirements

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which states:

"Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of Collective Worship. The CES has provided guidance about this.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Leadership Team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors, in particular, will play a most important role.

Conclusion

Worship is not something separate from the rest of our school life. It reflects the way in which our pupils contribute and take responsibility for standards of behaviour, shared values, the quality of the school environment, and also affirms the worth of the individual. We aim that the children in our care begin to realise that God is a source of infinite love and that he is active in the world and in our lives. Also, to realise that by praying together as a community, God's love is reflected in all of us and most importantly, in school life which will provide the atmosphere and opportunity to promote dialogue with him. Opportunities will be presented to all our children to be involved in school prayer life in various forms to further their spiritual growth.

Agreed and reviewed by:

Date agreed: January 2022

Date for next review: January 2024

Appendix 1

Traditional Prayers of The Church

Copies of the prayers appropriate for each year group are also provided in each classroom

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

ACT OF FAITH

My God, I believe in you and all that your Church teaches, because you have said it, your word is true.

ACT OF CHARITY

My God, because you are so good, I love you with all my heart, and for your sake, I love my neighbour as myself

ACT OF HOPE

My God, I hope in you, for grace and for glory, because of your promises, your mercy and your power.

AN ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace I will not sin again. Amen

ETERNAL REST

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

MORNING PRAYERS

Father in heaven, you love me, you are with me night and day. I want to love you always, in all I do and say. I'll try to please you, Father, bless me through the day. Amen

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O God, as we sit together. Bless the food we eat today. Bless the hands that made the food. Bless us, O God. Amen

GRACE AFTER MEALS

Thank you, God, for the food we have eaten. Thank you, God, for all our friends. Thank you, God, for everything, Thank you, God. Amen

EVENING PRAYER

God our Father, I come to say Thank you for your love today. Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me. Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light. Amen

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE CREED

I believe in one God, The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

PRAYER TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth. O God who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God our Father, creator of the world, you establish the order which governs all the ages. Hear our prayer and give us peace in our time that we may rejoice in your mercy and praise you without end.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone had ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, and was left forsaken. Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of virgins. To you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer.

THE ANGELUS

i. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary: and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary full of grace -----

*ii. Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary full of grace ---
---*

iii. And the Word was made flesh: and dwelt amongst us. Hail Mary full of grace ----- Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant, and from this day all generations will call me blessed. The almighty has done great things for me: holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud of heart. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

THE ROSARY

A reflection on the life of Jesus and Mary.

- *The Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, The Finding in the Temple*
- *The Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism of Our Lord, The Wedding Feast at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom, The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist*
- *The Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion*
- *The Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary, The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, where there is injury let me sow pardon, where there is doubt, let me sow faith, where there is despair let me give hope, where there is darkness let me give light, where there is sadness let me give joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

My dear St Joseph, I beseech you to obtain for me a contrite and humble heart, and great purity of soul and body. Pray for me that I may do the will of God all my life, and pray for me especially at the hour of my death. Amen.

PRAYER ADAPTED FROM ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

PRAYER TO ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which to look out on Christ's compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, yours are the hands with which he is to bless people now.

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

PRAYER OF ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

Thanks be to you, my Lord, Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given me, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Second Station: Jesus receives the cross

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

Fourth Station: Jesus is met by his blessed mother

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his Cross

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time

Eighth Station: The women of Jerusalem

Ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb

After each Station say Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be to the Father.

THE BENEDICTUS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people and redeemed them. He has raised up for us a mighty saviour in the house of David his servant, as he promised by the lips of holy men, those who were his prophets from of old. A saviour who would free us from our foes, from the hands of all who hate us. So his love for our fathers is fulfilled and his holy covenant remembered. He swore to Abraham our father to grant us, that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes, we might serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our life in his presence. As for you little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare a way for him. To make known to his people their salvation, through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high. He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace. Glory be to the Father....

NUNC DIMITTIS

Save us, Lord while we are awake; protect us while we are asleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace (Alleluia). Now, Lord, you have kept your word: let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it Save us, Lord while we are awake; protect us while we are asleep; that we may keep watch with Christ and rest with him in peace (Alleluia). Lighten our darkness we beseech you O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. May the Lord grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen