



St Teresa's School Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy)



Policy 2024

Mission Statement

'A welcoming family of God, growing and achieving together, with Jesus at our side.'
"I am the vine and you are the branches"

What is Collective Worship?

Collective worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. From 2024, we will introduce the new name of **Prayer and Liturgy**.

It 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 relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

*'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'*¹

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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, for example by lighting a candle during worship, extinguishing it before beginning the assembly part.

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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of prayer and liturgy in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Prayer and Liturgy in the Life of St Teresa's School

Prayer and Liturgy is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

The Aims of Prayer and Liturgy

Worship in St Teresa's School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- ❖ To contemplate the mystery of God
- ❖ To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- ❖ To explore personal beliefs
- ❖ To respond to and to celebrate life
- ❖ To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- ❖ To develop a common ethos and shared values
- ❖ To enrich religious experience
- ❖ To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- ❖ To pray using 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

All acts of worship in St Teresa's School will:

- ❖ Give glory and honour to God;
- ❖ Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- ❖ Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- ❖ Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- ❖ Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See topics, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Prayer may be formal, use traditional prayers, be written by children, be silent, be sung or use a mixture of forms.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below

Time	Monday a.m.	Tuesday varies	Wednesday p.m.	Thursday varies	Friday a.m.
Group	Key Stage x 2	Class	Whole school	Class	Whole school
Leader	Headteacher	Teacher	Teacher - rota	Teacher	SLT rota

Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead Prayer and Liturgy – often whole school or Key Stage. Our Deputy Head Teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team will also regularly lead larger Collective Worship. The class teachers will lead class Worship as well as Key Stage worship on a rota basis. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age and support will be given by teachers and Teaching Assistants.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded and planned using the format given by Liverpool Archdiocese. Each leader will record their own plans and samples will be collected by the R.E. lead and shared with the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored using the Collective Worship Observation Record provided by LACE. Observations are primarily by R.E. leader (Mrs Brookes/Mrs Burgess – 2024). The results are reported to the headteacher and individual written feedback given to each member of staff observed.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified, and outcomes used to inform SED.

Resources

Resources to assist children plan Collective Worship are located in our chapel. These include sample Scripture texts and a variety of prompts which can be chosen to assist in creating a plan for worship.

Teachers use a wide variety of music in Collective Worship, some key sources are the John Burland Come and See collection and music from Out of the Ark scheme.

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning' Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos. These focus areas are regularly updated – and any resource needs communicated to the R.E. leader. Display cloths based on Liturgical calendar/colours are in each are and we have a wide variety of pebbles, glass beads and such to help create particular effects. Candles should generally be battery powered and statues/crucifixes are to be in good order. Damaged items should be passed on to the R.E. leader and replacements obtained.

Other opportunities

As well as daily Prayer and Liturgy already outlined, we provide other opportunities at school/class Masses shared with the parish community. These take place at special times (Whole school) as well as for classes on a rota. We also worship in church at services (e.g. New Beginnings or Harvest) which might also involve Father Martin and/or a deacon

Collective Worship leadership

Currently we have an RE team approach which enables the senior leadership team to have overall responsibility for RE and Prayer and Liturgy.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Leader for Collective Worship

- ❖ Formulating a written policy for Prayer and Liturgy
- ❖ Ensuring that there is a development plan for Worship included in the school development plan
- ❖ Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- ❖ Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it

- ❖ Organising themes for Worship
- ❖ Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from Collective Worship
- ❖ Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- ❖ Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- ❖ Observing Acts of Prayer and Liturgy and providing feedback
- ❖ Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship in line with National Inspectorate descriptors.

Communication

- ❖ Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- ❖ Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- ❖ Acting as consultant to colleagues
- ❖ Encouraging positive attitudes towards Prayer and Liturgy
- ❖ Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Prayer and Liturgy
- ❖ Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- ❖ Liaison with the school chaplain (Father Martin)
- ❖ Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- ❖ Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- ❖ Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- ❖ Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- ❖ Evaluating existing resources
- ❖ Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- ❖ Budgeting efficiently

Agreed by Governors: March 2024

Review: March 2026