

St Mary's Catholic Primary Blackbrook



Collective Worship Policy

Quotes from Mission Statement

***“Love of learning, love of one another,
love of life itself and love of God”***

- *To teach children the gospel values of honesty, forgiveness, empathy, respect and self control through religious education, collective worship and assemblies.*
- *To celebrate God's love through a variety of meaningful experiences.*
- *To explore awe and wonder through everyday experiences.*
- *To identify each person's special gifts and talents, providing experiences and challenges to fully develop these abilities.*

Aim

At St Mary's it is our aim that Collective Worship will provide opportunities for pupils and staff to:

- worship God
- reflect on Jesus' role in their lives and help them examine their beliefs
- develop community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered

What Is Collective Worship?

‘Collective Worship must in some sense reflect something special in school activities and should be concerned with reverence or veneration to a divine being or power’ Government Circular 1/94 (para 50/57)

Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to ‘Collective Worship’ rather than ‘Corporate Worship’ Education Reform Act 1988 s 6(1).’ (57)

‘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.' (58)

'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 able actively to identify with the act of worship. (59)

The character of Collective Worship at Blackbrook St Mary's

Collective Worship at St Mary's, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will reflect the tradition of the Church and will be Trinitarian in character. Prayer is addressed to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit.

Collective Worship may take many different forms:

- Music
- Song
- Drama/Mime
- Words of Praise
- Prayers in a variety of forms
- Poetry
- Readings from Scripture
- Listening
- Thoughtful Silence
- Meditation
- Contemplations of Images/Icons/Symbols
- Services

Prayer Experiences

Children are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer:

Praying the psalms	<i>'I thank you for the wonder of my being' (Psalm 139)</i>
Traditional Prayers	<i>Glory be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary</i>
Repetitive Prayer (mantra)	<i>'Jesus, I love you', repeated several times slowly</i>
Meditation	<i>Reflection with use of imagination</i>
Bodily Prayer	<i>Raising hands in praise, bowing, dancing, genuflecting</i>
Prayer of the heart	<i>Stillness to listen to God: 'Be still & know...'</i>
Contemplation	<i>Looking at trees, a sunset, an icon</i>
Gestures	<i>The sign of the cross</i>
Hymns	<i>Traditional and modern</i>
Music	<i>Listening to quiet reflective music</i>
Litanies	<i>For all creation: Thanks be to God</i>
Processions	<i>Gospel procession with sung 'alleluia'</i>

Prayer services & liturgies Celebrations	<i>Formal & spontaneous prayer using candles etc Prayer, song, sharing food and drink, celebrating work done</i>
Use of visual aids	<i>Images, art, banners, displays, flowers, candles - can all enhance the experience of prayer</i>

Collective Worship at St Mary's

The 'Here I am' topics studied at any given time are reflected in all our forms of celebration. Time and space are set aside to:

- wonder at
- contemplate
- mark as special
- come to terms with
- give worth to the mystery of life - faith they have explored
- grow in awareness of and actively respond to the spiritual dimension of life
- develop the capacities and skills to participate in and plan worship and celebrations

Separate Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assemblies are held once a week so that the worship is at an appropriate level for the children involved. The whole school gathers to worship and celebrate the major festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Holy Week.

Within assemblies, time is set aside for collective worship in the form of prayer, song and reflection.

Each day opportunities are taken for collective worship in all classes. This will include the use of formal and informal prayer.

The reception children become involved and feel a part of whole school worship through our sponsorship scheme with Year 6 children.

Churches' Joint Education Policy Committee (May 2006)

'We strongly support the continuation of Collective Worship in all schools, recognising the major contribution it makes to the spiritual and moral development of pupils, which is a prime goal of education. It is believed by other faith groups to be of benefit even though its emphasis is mainly Christian. We look for Government support for an improvement in the quality of acts of collective worship and for ensuring that all pupils are able, with their parents' consent, to attend meaningful acts of worship at school.'

We aim to foster a special time in which we can all grow spiritually.