

St. George & St. Martin Catholic Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Mission

Growing, Learning, Loving; United in Play, Prayer and Peace

We grow in understanding and faith to be the best we can be.
We learn about a world outside of our school.
We love one another as Jesus taught us through the Gospels.
We are united in all that we do.
We play together, caring for each other.
We pray that we can become closer to God.
We want peace in our school, community and world

Collective worship at St. George and St. Martin's is a spiritual experience in which both children and adults come together in prayer to deepen their personal relationship with God and to reflect upon the Christian values in our school.

Aims of Collective Worship

The values in our Mission statement form the basis of our spiritual journey at St. George and St. Martin's. We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to become closer to God by developing their spirituality to have an understanding and experience of Catholic prayer and how it is significant in our lives. Children learn and are encouraged to develop the skills of independently planning a liturgy in small groups.

We will encourage our children and staff to respond to God's presence in our lives through different types of worship e.g.

Silent prayer

Spontaneous prayer

Praying through gesture or action

Formal prayer

Guided Meditations

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.¹"

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship. If parents choose to do this, parents will have to provide supervision of their children during this time, as the Academy is unable to release members of staff to supervise the children.

How we meet our stated aims through the different forms of liturgy and collective worship

Each term, the RE leader compiles a programme of Collective Worship for the school which details themes of prayer, prayer of the month, staff and class responsibility for leading worship in our school.

¹ Archdiocese of Birmingham 'Instrument of Government for Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools.'

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday	Whole School Assembly (led by Principal) based on the Sunday Gospel, to enable all children to access and reflect upon the Sunday readings. Prayer of the Month is also introduced and explained
Monday	Hymn Practise. Children and staff learn new hymns, and practise familiar ones, to enhance their participation in Collective Worship
Tuesday	Key Stage Assemblies. Rota is organised by the RE leader.
Thursday	Whole School Masses (fortnightly), parents and parishioners are also invited
Friday	Class Assembly for whole school and parents. Each class leads one Friday assembly per term for the school and their parents. This is followed by a celebration of children's weekly achievements recognising children's God-given gifts and talents. For each class, their teachers nominate certificate winners to recognise individual achievements and also a good citizen award for the child who is recognised for following our Christian values by being a good citizen.

Class Collective Worship also takes place within own classes during the term.

Liturgical Assemblies

During Advent and Lent, additional liturgies, led by classes, are held three times per week, to enable children to experience a fuller understanding of these seasonal times of preparation for Christmas and Easter.

Mass

Whole School Masses are held fortnightly as our Parish is shared with Our Lady and St. Benedict's in Abbey Hulton. Parents and parishioners are invited to attend.

Planning

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Churches seasons, significant liturgical dates and the curriculum. Each act of collective worship follows a 4 part structure:

- 1) Gather
- 2) Listen
- 3) Respond
- 4) Go Forth

Staff and children are expected to follow this format for assemblies/liturgies are encouraged to record this on the Liturgy Planning sheet.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of Worship
- Collective Worship will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and mission.
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- The school will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

Links with the Parish Community and Parents

Sunday Family Masses are also held one every half term as part of our Sacramental Programme for Year 3 and Year 6. All children and parents are encouraged to come to the Family Masses to pray together with the Parish and school. For Confirmation, parishioners agree to become prayer partners for the Confirmandi which further strengthens the link between our school and parish.

Prayer Areas/Sacred Spaces

Altars in classroom and in shared spaces throughout the school reflect the liturgical season at the time and are treated with reverence and respect by all.

Resources

There is a wide range of resources available for planning Collective Worship on the RE trolley in KS2 as well as various Internet links which have been distributed to teachers to help planning.

Monitoring

- The Principal and RE leader are responsible for the monitoring of liturgy and collective worship.
- Monitoring takes place in the form of learning walks, formal observations and book scrutinies.
- All monitoring is reported to the Academy Committee, and a termly report is shared between the RE leader and the RE link governor.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

- All children are made in the image and likeness of God, and so each child is treated equally.
- All children have the right to take part in collective worship.
- Children who are on the SEN register often excel during RE, including collective worship, due to the nature of the lessons.
- Children with additional needs are supported by additional adults where necessary.
- Children with additional needs are supported by their peers (for example, when writing ideas down).

Health and Safety

Candles and Matches

Candles, when used for collective worship and RE lessons, must be kept well out of the way of children. Matches should also be stored in a safe place, out of the reach of children and not accessible to them. Matches should be kept in the Principal's office and in the RE Co-ordinators classroom. Children should never be sent to collect matches.

Procedure for going to Church

Children must always be accompanied by staff and must not be allowed to remain in church unaccompanied.

This policy was agreed by staff _____

This policy was approved by Academy Committee on _____

This policy will be reviewed by the Academy Committee on _____

Reference/Guidance

- Handbook for Leaders of Prayer and Collective Worship
- Guidance for Developing the Provision of Liturgy and Collective Worship in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham
- Overview of School and Parish Prayer
- Learning and Celebrating through the Year