



# **CHRIST THE KING R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

## **Collective Worship Policy**



The rights of the child

In our school we believe “rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights and these rights are listed in the UN convention on the rights of the child. We have considered these rights in terms of what is best, and age appropriate, for the children in our school and in terms of what is critical to life and protection from harm. This policy reflects and supports our commitment to being a “rights respecting” school.

### **Our Mission Statement**

At Christ the King School, the character and daily life of the school are centred on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Working together with the children themselves, their parents, governors and, where appropriate, other interested parties, we hope to provide a caring and secure environment in which our children can flourish spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

We aim to value each child as an individual with different strengths and needs, and to develop in them a caring and loving spirit for all our brothers and sisters in Christ’s family.

We try to be there for each child when we are needed, and to keep at the forefront of our dealings with the children, the words of Jesus, the greatest teacher of all:

***“Let the little children come to me for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”***

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God’s presence in our lives. 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 Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

## **The 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**

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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.<sup>1</sup> In order to do this, celebrations will:
  - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
  - be short and appropriately paced ( children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2 );
  - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Collective worship in our schools will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Collective Worship is held as follows:-

***Monday – Whole school – led by the Headteacher***

***Tuesday – Class – led by teacher/pupils***

***Wednesday – FS and KS1 collective worship in Hall, KS2 – in each class***

***Thursday – KS2 Collective worship in Hall, FS and KS1 in each class***

***Friday – whole school – led by Headteacher or Deputy.***

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<sup>1</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

## **Resources**

Resources for Collective Worship are kept in the Resource room and the school hall.

## **Voluntary Worship and Retreats**

We aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship. During Lent, Advent and the months of May and October, KS2 children will organise and lead Voluntary worship during lunchtimes.

## **Eucharist**

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *'Directory for Masses with Children'* as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

## **The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

Mrs Carson is the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship. (A job description is included in Appendix 1.)

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator 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.

## Appendix 1

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- 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 principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

#### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

#### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts 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 Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Adviser

#### **Professional development / Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- 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

## Appendix 2

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, “on a special occasion”.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School or Catholic school which has converted to an academy, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests 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 Collective Worship 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.

## Appendix 3

### Resources for Collective Worship in Catholic Primary Schools

#### Books

**A First Look- Prayer:** Lois Rock. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) ISBN: 0745937519

**And the Children Pray:** Janaan Manternach. Ave Maria Press (1989) ISBN: 0877934126

**Assemblies for liturgical seasons & school occasions, Volume One :** Jude Groden and Christ O'Donnell :McCrimmon :0-85597-615-2

**Volume Two – Assemblies for Feasts, Mary and the Saints:** 0-85597617-9

**Celebrating the Mass:** Bishop's Conference. Catholic Truth Society (2005) ISBN: 1860822908

**Children's Daily Prayer:** Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Liturgy Training Publications : 1-57854-375-1 ( Published annually for the beginning of the academic year).

**Classroom Prayer Services for the Days of Advent and Lent :** Gwen Costello :Twenty-third Publications : 0-89622-737-5

**Don't just do something - Sit there:** (Developing children's spiritual awareness) : Mary K. Stone. An RE-ME Enquiry Service Publication : ISBN 1-897-805-01-2

**Enjoying the Mass:** Joan Brown. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039736

**Guided Meditations for Children 1,2 and 3 – How to teach Children to Pray using Scripture:** Jane Reehorst, B.V.M.

**In Joyful Hope – Advent Prayer and Worship in the Catholic Primary School:** Carmel Hanley fcj and Rita Tunstall : available from Sr Carmel FCJ, 214 Barton Road, Stretford M32 8DP

**Looking Beyond:** Jill Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN 1840039841

**Multi- Sensory Prayer:** Sue Wallace. Scripture Union Publishing (2000) ISBN: 1859994652

**New Ideas for Creative Prayer:** Judith Merrell. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN 1859995896

**Our Poems and no messin':** Margaret Cooling. Scripture Union Publishing (2002) ISBN: 1859995896

**Poems and Prayers for a Better World:** compiled by Su Box and Felicity Henderson : Lion : 0-7459-3886-8

**Pray Together:** Pat Ainge. 2 Volumes. Kevin Mayhew. ISBN 9781848671782

**Prayer of a Fragile World:** Carol Watson. Lion Hudson Plc (1997) IBSN: 0745937055

**Praying with Children – Some ways and means:** Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-546-6

**Seasons of Celebrations – Prayers, Plays and Projects for the Church Year :** Patricia Mathson : Ave Maria Press :0-87793-566-1

**Spirit of the Season:** a free to use/copy classroom resource : at [www.liturgy.demon.co.uk](http://www.liturgy.demon.co.uk)

**Spiritual Garments:** Julie McCann. Decani Books (2006) ISBN: 1900314177

**The Lord Be With You – Introducing the Mass to Children:** Jenny Pate : McCrimmons : 0-85597-579-2

**The Welcome Table – Planning Masses with Children:** ( Contains the complete text of the Church's *Directory for Masses with Children*) : Elizabeth McMahon Jeep : Archdiocese of Chicago. Liturgy Training Publications : 0-930467-38-8

**Ways to Pray with Children:** (Prayers, Services and Activities): Barbara Ann Bretherton. Twenty-Third Publications : 0-89622-670-0

**Welcome: Celebrations for young children for the Church's year:** Jenny Pate. McCrimmons: 085597642-X

**Whispering in God's Ear:** Alan Macdonald. Lion Hudson Plc (2004) ISBN: 0745936725

**You're Special:** Julia Giles. Kevin Mayhew Ltd (2002) ISBN: 1840039841

## Prayer and Worship Resources

Prayer Themes & Guided Meditations	B.A. Bretherton
With the Word of God	J. Groden & C. O'Donnell
Directory on Children's Masses	Congregation for Divine Worship
Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children	"
Marking the Liturgical Year	Diocese of Portsmouth
With Hearts and Minds	Bishops' Conference

## Musical Resources

**Agape:** Marty Haugen

**Alive-O:** Veritas

**All Are Welcome:** Marty Haugen

**A Year of Celebration – Songs for Children :** McCrimmon

0-855975-44-X Melody/Guitar Edition

0-85597-552-0 Congregational copy

*Revised edition contains an index cross-referring to the 'Here I Am' programme.*

**Celtic Mystic Moods:** Seamus Byrne

**Christ Be Our Light:** Bernadette Farrell

**Classic FM:** Various Artists

**Come All You People** - 40 shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

**Dreamcatcher:** Secret Garden

**Fire of Love:** Margaret Rizza

**Fountain of Life:** Margaret Rizza

**God Beyond All Names:** Bernadette Farrell

**How Can I Keep From Singing 1 & 2:** CJM Music

**Jubilate:** Taize

**Kidscourse :** Kevin Mayhew, (K) : 1-84003-310-X

**Light The Fire:** Liam Lawton

**Quiet Time:** Frank Leto

**Rejoice and Sing:** CJM Music

**Rejoice One and Rejoice Two – Songs for Celebration :** Collins : 0-00-711776-0 (One)

0-00-711777-9 (Two)

*CD's to accompany 'Here I Am'.*

**Restless Is The Heart:** Bernadette Farrell

**Resurrexit:** Taize

**Sacred Story:** Liam Lawton

**Share the Light :** Bernadette Farrell : OCP Publications

Songbook, ref. 111549TC

Cassette, ref. 111550TC

CD set, ref. 111551TC

*The CD includes videos of some of the songs using American and British Sign Language, playable on a computer.*

**Shepherd Moons:** Enya

**Someone's Singing Lord :** A&C Black (SSL) : 0-7136-1730-6

**Songs for Everyday Assembly :** Out of the Ark Music : 0-951911-61-9

**Songs of Sanctuary:** Adiemus

**The Celts:** Enya

**The Complete Come and Praise :** BBC, (CCP) : 0-563-34580-2

**The Healer:** Seamus Byrne

**There is One Among Us** –more shorter songs for worship : John L. Bell : Wild Goose Resource Group

**Walking By Faith:** David Haas & Robert W. Piercy

**Watch & Pray:** Taize

**With You Always:** Taize

**Any classical compilations can be bought quite cheaply  
in music shops.**

**This list is by no means exhaustive. It gives some good  
examples. Continue to build your own store of resources.**

