

**“I have come that
they may have life
and have it to the full”**

John 10:10



Acts of Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: September 2021

Our Vision:

Our vision is to enable our young people to live life to the full in a challenging and constantly changing world.

Our Mission:

Pield Heath House School owes its existence and special character to the belief that God loves us. The daily life of the school is nurtured by the teachings of Christ who showed us the Fathers Love: to believe; to hope; to forgive; to love.

We are a well organised educational community in which all young people are of equal importance and are valued for the individuals they are, regardless of race, culture or background.

We aim to provide these ideals in our relationships within our community.

We provide an educational community that is holistic as well as formal by involving parents, governors, and the local community.

We give all young people the opportunity for educational development to the highest possible level.

We aim to develop each individual's talents, abilities, skills and understanding, in order that they may live life to the full.

Our Values

Pield Heath 'CARES'

We are **Committed** to working collaboratively and listening to each other's views and wishes so that we can achieve more together

We are **Aspirational** for ourselves and others and encourage everyone to achieve and celebrate their accomplishments

We treat everyone with **Respect** and dignity and celebrate difference

We **Empower** everyone to be the best they can be

We **Share** our gifts, time and talents generously in order for our community to flourish

We seek to do this:

By creating a well organised educational environment in which each member of the school community is valued as a unique creation of God, regardless of race, culture and background, and opportunity is provided in the curriculum to raise academic achievement, together with the development of each pupils' talents, abilities, skills and understanding. We aim to help pupils with learning difficulties to develop their

full potential through our policy of encouraging equal opportunities for all.

Legal Requirements.

The legal requirement (Section 70 of the 1998 Education Act) is that ‘subject to the parental right of exclusion or other special arrangement each student in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.’

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all learners. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all learners, 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.

In this school, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Principal.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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 – or none.

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

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

The Aims of Collective Worship.

We believe that Collective Worship aims to provide opportunity for all learners and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To enter into relationship with God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs and feelings
- 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 develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles

All Acts of Worship will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character

- Lead learners to a greater understanding of the word of God expressed in the Bible and religious stories
- Celebrations will:
 - be short and appropriately paced
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
 - include singing, drama and other forms of participation
 -
 - use a range of multisensory resources to gain and hold learners attention and include them spiritually in the liturgy

Collective Worship is organised in our school is as follows

- *Mass every month*
- *Non-Eucharistic Liturgy every Wednesday*
- *Assembly – every Friday*
- *Act of Worship in tutor groups*
- *Grace before meals*
- *Prayer and song in many RE lessons / Special events and celebrations.*

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical year.
- Involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in learners skills that enable them to prepare, organise and participate in worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

The format for Collective Worship for our school is:

- ❖ **Gather** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Word** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- ❖ **Response** – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers)
- ❖ **Mission** – Giving the learners something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, learner groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of learners' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all learners and whether learners are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in aspects of worship.

Resources

Illustrated Bibles for learners (various levels)

Simplified Mass readings produced by RE Staff

Puppets and other figures

Music

Musical instruments

Candles and glow sticks

Interactive books and toys

Sensory experience and sharing activities

Costume

The chapel and Stations of the Cross

Eucharist – The Mass

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated and made accessible to all learners and staff irrespective of their faith development stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for learners to participate will be maximised. We have Mass every month of the academic year where we follow the Liturgical year and mark particular feast days / special events.

- **September:** Staff & Governors Welcome Service to start the academic year / September Mass to mark 8th September as ‘The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary’
- **October:** The Month of the Rosary. CAFOD – Harvest Family Fast Day.
- **November:** Feast Days – eg Mass for the Feast of All Saints. All Souls Service “In November We Remember”.
- **December:** Posada, Preparing the Manger, Advent, Carol Concert / Lower & Upper School Christmas Performances.
- **January:** New Year’s Resolution Tree, Epiphany Mass.
- **February:** Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- **March / April:** Penitential Service – Ash Wednesday / Lent / Stations of the Cross (interactive display with objects of reference in Victor Braun which all classes visit), Lenten crown of thorns / Acts of love activity. Fundraising for Catholic Children’s Society, Westminster – Lent Appeal / Good Shepherd Mass.
- **May:** May Procession Mass / visit The Grotto / Feast of the Founder of the Congregation Fr Victor Braun / Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoremus Mass.
June: Celebration of Sacraments – Reconciliation, First Communion & Confirmation Mass. Celebration of the Congregation’s Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- **July:** Year 14 Leavers Mass / Thanksgiving

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

In school, therefore, therefore apart from the monthly Mass students will participate in a non-eucharistic liturgy.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

During Advent and Lent, a penitential liturgy will be held and then we will have a Mass to celebrate the feasts of both Christmas and Easter. The Sacrament of Confession will be made available to students who have made their First Confession and First Holy Communion.

Those students who are not Catholic but wish to have one to one with the priest are also welcome.

Worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Liturgy of the Word

The Leader for Collective Worship

Eryl D'Souza – Associate Principal

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Associate Principal for Spirituality and is evaluated and reviewed by the SLT and governors. The RE Link and 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 learners
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who participate.
- Organising themes for Worship

- Assisting the governors and Principal 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 Principal 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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ONGOING FORMATION

- Leading and organising CPD activities and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
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- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading and reflection

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