



St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Prayer and Liturgy Policy

We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

Mission Statement

St. Gregory's Catholic School serves the parishes of Holy Rosary and St. Gregory's Church, South Shields.

In accordance with the Education Act 1988, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school.

We strive to maintain at all times the highest ideals and standards within the national education system. We believe that every child has a divine origin and an eternal destiny.

We recognise that each individual child, made in the image and likeness of God, is uniquely valuable and deserving of respect as of right.

We hold that each individual child is equal to others regardless of sex, nationality, colour, creed, class, wealth or intellectual ability.

We seek to promote to the utmost the development of every child's personal wholeness, integrity, gifts and creativity in a welcoming and loving school community.

We do so in partnership with parents, guardians and all others who have the welfare of the child at heart.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective 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 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.

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 Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005



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 Collective Worship in the Life of St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Worship 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.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship in **St. Gregory's Catholic Primary 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. Gregory's Catholic Primary 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.² 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, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast 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.

Staff and governor meetings begin with prayer and staff meet on Friday mornings to pray together.

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.



The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Weekly opportunities for prayer and liturgy:
Monday morning – whole school Prayer and Liturgy
Tuesday morning – EYs & KS1 Prayer and Liturgy
Wednesday morning – KS2 Prayer and Liturgy
Friday lunchtime – Rosary for KS2 pupils

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
KS1 Welcome Liturgical prayer	Years 3 & Year 4 Liturgical Prayer	KS1 liturgical prayer First Holy Communion Mass
Year 5 and Year 6 Youth Sunday liturgical prayer	EY & KS1 Mothers' Day Liturgy	Year 6 End of school year liturgical prayer Leavers' Mass

Leading collective worship

As faith leaders of the school, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will plan and lead liturgical prayer. The class teacher will lead class and Key Stage liturgical Prayer. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded using liturgical prayer planning sheets. The RE subject leader's floor book is also used to record evidence of liturgical prayer.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored by the headteacher and/or deputy headteacher.
Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 1).
Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform CSED.

Resources

Each class has a selection of resources in their classrooms. There are also additional resources kept in the HT's office and in the middle entrance cubes.

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 environment'³

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.

Retreats

The whole school will participate in a retreat each year during Lent or Advent.

Other opportunities

All classes visit the parish of St. Gregory's to attend Mass with the parish or to join them in liturgical prayer.

³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005



The coordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs Dunne is the coordinator for Collective Worship.

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. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Approved by Local Governing Committee	July 2023
Review	July 2025



Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective 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 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 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 Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

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 Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the BCCET chaplain
- 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

[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]



Collective Worship Monitoring Sheet

Focus	Comments
Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the children been involved in the planning? Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 	
Structure (If Liturgy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? How did children gather? Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? How did children respond to the Word? Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 	
Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child or adult led? Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 	
Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? Was it a prayerful experience? 	
Creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How creative was the Act of Worship? Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 	
Prayer Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
ICT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
Agreed areas for development	