

# *Our Lady of Compassion*

*Catholic Primary School*



*Collective Worship Policy*

*January 2019*



## *Policy for Collective Worship*

*Flying on the Wings of God's Love and Compassion.*

### *Collective Worship at Our Lady's*

At Our Lady of Compassion, we set an example of passing on an awareness and appreciation of the Gospel values and support all members of our home, school, parish and local community, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Collective Worship is separate from our normal school day. We believe Collective Worship should be a special and peaceful act to allow everyone in our school community to participate in the act of worship. Children are encouraged to participate, reflect and respond, whether through involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered.

### *Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship at Our Lady's*

Collective Worship is an integral part of our daily school life and fulfils all legal requirements.

- Provide a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school.
- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship and give glory to God.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit through planned opportunities throughout the year.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age.
- Develop children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship.

### *Organisation, Planning and Recording*

The timing and organisation of Collective Worship can take place at any time of the school day, except for at the very start or very end of the day to allow for all children to be present. Collective Worship will be evidenced on each class' weekly timetable.

Collective worship can take place as a whole school in assembly, in classes or in smaller groups. The timing of Collective Worship must be appropriate to children ages – one minute per year of their age.

At Our Lady of Compassion, Collective Worship is planned with reference to the Church's Liturgical year and seasons, 'Come and See' topics, significant dates and the world around us. All members of staff take turns to plan weekly themes for Collective Worship using the agreed Diocesan planning template. A timetable has been developed by the RE coordinator for EYFS/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 staff to rotate planning weekly. The R.E. Co-ordinator invites the staff to follow the agreed themes and this information is distributed to staff through INSET and staff meetings. Each week's theme is discussed at the weekly staff meeting and given to the timetabled members of staff to plan.

Our pupils in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to plan with the class teacher once a week and to lead parts of a Collective Worship session. The planning produced each week is evidenced in our whole-school Collective Worship book. This displays the lower schools and upper schools planning for each week, along with a picture from each year group of Collective Worship taking place.

As a school, we have agreed on a set weekly timetable to ensure Collective Worship is taking place daily. This involves two whole school assemblies on a Monday and Friday led by the head teacher and deputy head teacher to start and end the week's theme, with three class led sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. During a school week children in every class also have a time for prayer at the beginning of the day, lunchtime and at the end of the day.

## *Delivery and Features of Collective Worship*

At Our Lady of Compassion, the delivery and features of Collective Worship involve:

- Creating an appropriate atmosphere for worship.
- A focus area with appropriate artefacts/symbols/objects.
- Use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship.
- An opportunity for prayer – together or independently.
- Scripture or an appropriate reading.
- An opportunity to participate and share thoughts.

## *Right of Withdrawal*

Collective worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending a school, as a daily act of worship for every pupil (Education Reform Act, 1988). All members of Our Lady's school community are welcome to participate in our act of worship.

Collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from participating in Collective Worship. (Education Reform Act, 1998). Collective Worship in our school is voluntary and children are given the opportunity to participate. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate.

## *The Governing Body*

It is the head teacher's duty to ensure the Collective Worship requirements are met. The coordination of Collective Worship is the responsibility, under the direction of the head teacher, of the R.E. Co-ordinator. The Governing body recognise their responsibility to ensure Collective Worship is taking place within school and are welcome and invited to participate in the act of worship. The designated governor for Collective Worship and RE is Mrs Dickinson.

## *Monitoring and Review*

This policy will be monitored annually by the Collective Worship Coordinator and will be reviewed by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This Policy will be reviewed in January 2021.

Signed: ..... (RE Coordinator)

Signed: ..... (Head teacher)

Date: .....

### **See also:**

*Spiritual Development Policy*

*Moral Development Policy*

*Social and Cultural Policy*

*Religious Education Policy*