



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Type	Policy Number	Prepared by (job title) and date
Collective Worship Policy		Acting Executive Headteacher 6.4.21
Approval Date	Review Frequency	Review Due Date
TBC	Bi - Annual	Summer 2023
Signed on behalf of the Full Governing Body:		

Introduction

In this policy we aim to set out the aims for the Collective Worship Policy, explain the legal requirements, explain how collective worship is planned, taught and monitored.

Mission Statement

Christ taught us to love one another.

As a school we follow his example, appreciating everyone as a unique gift from God.

We encourage each individual in BEC Federation to achieve their true potential, giving them a firm foundation through love, learning and worship, to guide them on their journey through life.

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13: 34)

Aims

In the BEC Federation 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.

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. 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 the BEC Federation, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Executive Headteacher.

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines. Parents do 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 are 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. It is also part of the school week and is therefore timetabled.

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

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- 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.

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

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 BEC Federation will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church. 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
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation

Our Collective Worship gives reference to the Liturgical time of the year, the Seasons and the Religious Education themes and topics. It is planned with the ever-changing need of the school and community in mind so that we may respond, develop and grow. Children, staff and visitors reflect and evaluate collective worship and remember it through photographs and displays. We share prayers with parents through newsletters and displays.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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Gospel Assembly and Worship	Hymn Practice or <i>Class Collective Worship</i>	Key Stage Collective Worship – Teacher led assembly	Class Collective Worship or <i>Hymn Practice</i>	Good News Assembly
A focus on the previous Sunday reading, presented at the children's level and expanding their understanding of scripture	Hymn practice and prayer. The hymns chosen are from a rich variety of resources, including, sacred theme music for children and from hymns used in the parish. The chosen music reflects the time of the year, needs of the children and the Liturgical Season.	Teacher led Key Stage appropriate Collective Worship. Focus on liturgical year, bible stories and understanding or Feast Days/Saint's Days.	Children organise Collective Worship for their class using planning board and resources. Recorded in class Collective Worship book	Children are encouraged to bring awards and certificates received for activities and pursuits – e.g. swimming, sport, dance, drama and music. The assembly is a celebration and the hymns and prayers use reflect this.

The Celebration of the Mass

The celebration of Mass in school enables the children to experience the joyful occasion of the school community at worship. Mass is celebrated regularly, in collaboration with the parish priest. Masses take place in the school hall or at the Cathedral. Music and singing is an important part of our Masses. The songs reflect the season and the theme of the Mass. Parents and parishioners are invited to join us for mass. Masses and other services and sacraments that the school participates in and celebrates throughout the year include:

- Harvest Liturgy
- Advent
- Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Rosary
- Psalm Sunday
- Stations of the Cross
- Holy Week

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

- Whole school visits to Shrewsbury Cathedral or St Patrick's to celebrate Mass with other schools.
- Parishioners invited to celebrate Mass in school.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in BEC Federation 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. These Eucharistic celebration will normally form part of the Mass.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Collective Worship Planning will follow a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Gospel Readings, 'The Way, the Truth and the Life', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship however there will be further develop of digital resources including Ten:Ten and Cafod.
- The SLT will prepare resources for the Collective worship to encourage the children to take ownership of the session. The children will receive taught sessions to ensure they are equipped to lead the their class. This process will ensure that the children develop skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- The Head of School, Executive Headteacher or RE Coordinator will prepare the Gospel assembly and these will be shared with the teaching staff.
- Planning collective worship may involve consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- Collective Worship planning will be flexible to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

At Key Stage 1 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

At Key Stage 2 worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

Recording of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources. These will then be recorded in the class book.
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Resources

All resources are kept either in the hall – book shelf, cupboard or prayer corner. There are also some more resources available in the school. Key resources include:

- liturgical cloths
- religious artefacts
- candles
- rosaries
- bibles
- books
- natural materials

- water
- special containers

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

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.

Link Policies

- Religious Education Policy
- Spiritual and Moral Development

DRAFT