



St Ambrose Catholic Primary School Collective Worship Policy 2017-2018

MISSION STATEMENT: To follow the example of Jesus with children at the heart of all that we do.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God.
- Exploring and sharing as appropriate the spiritual and religious experiences of those who worship as members of the Catholic Faith.
- To provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life.
- To enable the children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable the children to explore their own beliefs in Jesus Christ.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To develop a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To provide an opportunity for quiet reflection.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship and Assembly are distinctive activities. Although they may take part as the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

'Taking part' in Collective Worship implies more than simple passive attendance. It follows, therefore, that an Act of Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from children and the children are encouraged to plan and lead acts of Collective Worship.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We conduct our Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate manner. There are times when the children are required to be quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings, as well as expecting full participation in hymns, plays and prayers. We often use music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of children. Classes should collect resources for Collective Worship that can be used by the children to help them plan for Collective Worship.

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship at St Ambrose. This is taken in individual classes three days per week with the other two days involving individual Key Stage 1 & 2 assemblies as well as coming together for a whole school assembly. These assemblies are led by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher or teachers. The worship may include: music, songs/hymns, stories, shared experiences, plays, readings from the Bible and prayer and reflection. Teachers use the format provided by the Christian Education Department: Gather - Listen - Respond - Go Forth.

These daily acts vary in duration and time of the day, depending on the ages of the children involved:

Foundation Stage: 3-4 minutes.

KS1: 5-7 minutes.

KS2: 7-11 minutes.

At certain times of the year some classes join together for Collective Worship celebrations.

Each week there is an Achievement Assembly and each half term parents are invited to attend. St Ambrose is a successful school and these offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part of promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

In addition to *Collective Worship*, each class teacher also prepares a celebration assembly with their class/year group in line with the *Come and See* topics. When the entire school attends a celebration Mass - usually at St Ambrose Church - a class or children representing more than one class prepare the Liturgy.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend daily *Collective Worship*. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during this time. Parents do not have to explain or give a reason for this. This complies with the Education Reform Act 1988. The Headteacher keeps a record of all the children who withdraw from *Collective Worship*.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The RE Co-ordinator observes *Collective Worship* in classes once each year and also collects in examples of high-quality planning which are then kept in a file as examples for new members of staff.

This policy has been presented to the *Governors* at a meeting in the Autumn Term 2017 and has been agreed and ratified and will be disseminated to all staff and parents. It will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2018.

Date: Autumn 2017