



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

*Faithfully following in the footsteps of Jesus,
we serve, love and learn together
inspiring each other to excellence.*

St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School aims to make school a safe place where the Gospel values of Christ are taught, lived and experienced, where prayer and celebration are integral to life and where religious growth and development are stimulated within the whole curriculum.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School celebrates God's presence in our lives. It provides children with opportunities to give glory, honour, praise and thanks to God and through prayer, we lift up our hearts and mind to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Children are encouraged to participate and respond, whether through involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered.

The Place of Daily Collective Worship in the Life of Our School

Worship in St. Patrick's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of daily school life and central to our Catholic tradition. It fulfils all legal requirements and complements the work and role of our local parishes.

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 children's personal relationship with God our Father is fostered, through prayer in the following ways:

- prayer of silence
- spontaneous prayer
- praying through gesture or action
- formal prayer through set daily prayers in the classroom
- formal prayer through Celebration of the Word

Collective Worship and prayer is a spiritual experience to which **all** can contribute and from which **all** can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in St Patrick's Catholic Primary School provides the opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to reflect on our growing relationship with 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 through planned opportunities throughout the year
- 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 St Patrick's Catholic Primary School:

- give glory and honour to God
- provide a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- develop children's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way
- 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

In order to do this, celebrations are:

- appropriate in content and length to the age and experience of the children
- appropriately paced
- able to draw upon elements of the liturgy, such as its texts, symbols, and gestures, which help to reinforce their Catholic nature
- simple yet effective and meaningful, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Collective Worship in our school is:

- planned effectively
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Planning and organisation of Collective Worship

In St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Collective Worship is planned with reference to the Church's Liturgical year and seasons, 'Come and See' or new 'RED' topics, significant dates and the world around us.

All members of staff plan weekly themes for Collective Worship using the agreed Diocesan planning template. The R.E. Leader invites the staff to follow agreed themes and this information is distributed to staff through INSET and staff meetings at the beginning of each half term.

Collective discussions take place regularly between staff members, enabling implementation of fresh ideas and approaches.

Where appropriate, our pupils are encouraged to contribute to the planning and leading of Collective Worship sessions and share their ideas for each part of the process; Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth.

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 children regularly gather for an assembly led by the Headteacher or other members of staff such as the R.E. Leader.

All classes have dedicated time for prayer at the beginning of the day, before lunchtime, after lunchtime and at the end of the day. Where appropriate, children are encouraged to follow seasonal liturgical events e.g. October and May - reciting a decade of the Rosary.

Features and Format of 'Celebration of the Word'

At St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, acts of worship include the following features:

- appropriate music for the children to gather to
- a focus area with appropriate artefacts and symbols
- scripture or appropriate reading read from the Bible
- opportunity for prayer, whether together or silently

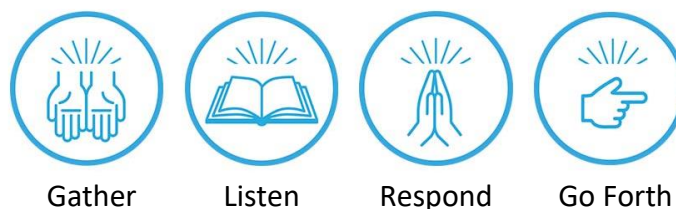
In the EYFS and KS1 phases, the children would be expected to:

- sit and participate for no longer than 7 minutes
- help prepare by organising the prayer focus
- carry out 'special' jobs such as turning off the lights or putting the sign on the door
- have the opportunity to read some prayers or take part in spontaneous prayer
- take turns when, for example, a pebble or crucifix is passed around

In KS2, the children would be expected to do as above, but in addition:

- sit and participate for longer periods of time
- make suggestions for their own prayers/songs/reflections etc.
- prepare readings from the Bible
- take a more active role through song/drama/movement etc.
- have a 'Go Forth' task that might be completed at a different time or out of school
- contribute to the planning of celebrations

In all classes, the Celebration of the Word sessions follow the same format:



Recording

- Records of themes and supporting resources are kept by staff. Teachers use the planning format provided by the Archdiocese and keep samples of Pupil led Collective Worship along with some

photographic evidence. Class Worship is observed by the R.E. leader and members of the SLT during the year and examples of good practice are shared through staff meetings.

- School displays, with pupil contributions, celebrate special occasions of Collective Worship.
- Pupils and staff plan a Collective Worship session through the 'Rejoice' process of 'Come and See'. These are recorded in the 'Journey with Jesus' big book in the classes that are still following the Come and See curriculum.

Voluntary Worship/Reflection

Children, staff and parents are given the opportunity to take part in liturgical celebrations that do not form part of the normal school day. These include:

- services of Reconciliation during Advent
- Advent & Lenten reflections in church
- Reflection opportunities to support the R.E. Curriculum and Sacramental Preparation
- Class Masses
- School Masses on Holy Days of Obligation that fall within term time, e.g. Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- St. Patrick's Day Mass
- Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Conclusion

Collective Worship in St. Patrick's School reflects the tradition of the Church and has Christ at its heart. Through clear aims and principles and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide our pupils with experiences of Collective Worship that are relevant, appropriate and life giving.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The coordination of Collective Worship is the responsibility, under the direction of the headteacher, of the R.E. Leader. The R.E. Leader has attended Collective Worship training provided by the diocese and has led subsequent staff training to disseminate key information. When available, teaching staff are also encouraged to attend Archdiocesan training sessions for Collective Worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the R.E. Leader and is evaluated and reviewed by the staff and governors. The policy will be reviewed in January 2026.

Date:

Signed:

See also:

Religious Education Policy
Mission Statement
Spiritual Development Policy
Moral Development Policy
Sacramental Policy