



St Paulinus Catholic Primary School

"Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus"

Worship Policy

Signed Date

Chair of Governors

Policy reviewed by Subject Managers : Miss S Hayes

Policy updated by : Miss S Hayes September 2016

Policy review date : September 2019



Worship Policy

Mission Statement

John 8:12

"I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Our Mission is to inspire all to live, learn and love in the Light of Jesus.

Our Catholic School promotes self-motivation and the well-being of all individuals within the community, including supporting our community in developing spirituality.

This [Worship Policy](#) supports this mission.

The Governors and Staff of St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School, Dewsbury, commit themselves to live as a community with Christ at its centre, characterised by living Gospel values within the Catholic Church. They commit themselves to provide the best possible education for every child in the school according to their needs and affirming their achievements.

"Its mission remains the integral formation of the human person. Pupils must be guaranteed the possibility of developing harmoniously their own physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual gifts, and they must also be helped to develop their sense of responsibility, learn the correct use of freedom, and participate actively in social life." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012, Pg 3)

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church express values and attitudes which enable all of us to grow towards personal fulfilment, to have a concern for wholeness and to recognize what diminishes us and what enables us to grow. Consequently, it is not enough simply to inform children of the churches teaching, we must help them to develop an appreciation of the values underpinning that teaching and thus they can be helped to make informed decisions and choices throughout their lives...."

(Social and Moral Education in Catholic Schools – Bishops Conference 1994)

The Nature of Collective Worship

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 a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.



Collective worship is an integral part of life at St Paulinus, we work hard to follow in Jesus' footsteps and use worship opportunities to continue to celebrate our being part of God's family.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School:

Worship at St Paulinus is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to our 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;
- Those from other faith backgrounds;
- Those with no faith.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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 this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils 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.¹ 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 (children’s attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 mins. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2);
 - be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

SEN/More Able/Equal Opportunities:

- all collective worship is inclusive
- children of all faiths are part of our school worship
- at times children of other faiths will actively participate in worship but it is respected that they may wish to use the time to reflect on their own faith journey
- at times references are made to other faiths and cultures in collective worship
- children of all abilities are given the opportunity to fully participate at their own level
- SEN pupils may be supported by staff if appropriate, while the more able are given opportunities to answer more challenging, thought provoking questions

Collective worship in our school will be:

- properly planned
- adequately resourced
- recorded
- monitored
- evaluated

Planning and Organisation

Whole school overview:

- Each day will include an act of worship as well as provide opportunities for prayer. Each class promotes the use of a morning prayer to start the day, our lunchtime prayer for before lunch and after lunch and a hometime prayer to end our day. The end of day prayer and worship also offers children a time to reflect on their own actions over the day.
- On the days where there has not been a whole school worship, children (with the support of adults) plan and lead their own class worships. Throughout the school the children will be encouraged to contribute to the planning and leading of collective worship in different ways; relating to their age and abilities. The information below outlines how children could be involved in worship in different year groups
- Every Monday the Mini Vinnies (with the support of an adult) lead the whole school in worship. KS2 at 9am and KS1 at 10.15am. Assemblies are well resourced and well planned. They make links to prayer and Jesus’ teachings. .
- Every Thursday break time, the Mini Vinnies lead an optional worship in the prayer garden (or at the prayer table if weather does not permit being outside), children are invited to attend during the whole school worship on a Monday.

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.



- There are regular opportunities for children to develop their knowledge of hymns and songs linked to worships, including choirs and hymn practises for KS2 children. Each session discusses the meaning behind the hymns and why they might be chosen for different situations.
- Every Thursday there is a key stage celebration Assembly where the talents God has given us are celebrated and children achieve award for sharing them.
- At different times of the liturgical year special worships are organised; for instance Advent Liturgies, Lent Liturgies, Whole School Masses, and St Paulinus day etc.
- Whole school Masses will be planned collaboratively and celebrated on a variety of occasions.

Class Worship:

- Class based collective worship is recorded on a planning sheet and kept in the class worship books, which can be found on the worship tables around school. It is expected that every day includes an act of collective worship and once a week each class has a special collective worship which is planned in more detail and recorded in the worship folders for each class. Please see worship requirements below.
- Recording may also take the form of photographs, display work or prayers written by the children.
- All classes will have the opportunity to prepare a class Mass over the year which will be celebrated in the school hall or parish church
- Each class has a worship box with various signs and symbols and cloths to use throughout the year. Worship displays change with the Liturgical seasons.

Basic Resources:

- Focal point – candle, cross, pebbles
- Scripture – God’s story, Bibles...
- Rosary beads
- Drapes
- Music
- These resources can be added to by classes and teachers e.g. prayer box, prayer cards etc.

Children’s involvement in Worship:

As a central part of our catholic life we feel it is important that children take on an increasing role of responsibility in leading and taking part in class and whole school worship. Outlined below is the expected level of involvement for children in each year group.

Nursery/ Reception: listening carefully to the stories, and helping the teacher with Godly play (children could frieze frame different scenes/ be filmed acting a story out to be shown on screen as part of their worship). At this stage we expect children to understand that worship is a special part of our day. The experiences of children in reception will prepare them to take an increasingly active role in worship in the future years. Reception children bring something to the focal point during a worship and explain why they chose it.



Year 1: Year 1 children will build upon their experiences in the previous year and will independently make and lead the signing of the cross to begin the worship. Children will also make appropriate responses to prayers and assist the teacher in setting up the worship area.

Year 2: Year 2 will independently make the sign of the cross to begin the worship, they will present the story and word of God in different ways (drama, dance, art) these readings will be organised by the class teacher. The children will also begin to write prayers using Dear God and Amen, with support of the class teacher. They will independently set up the worship table.

Year 3: Children will do all of the above and they will become responsible for organising and planning the gathering part of the worship and writing prayers, with assistance of the class teacher.

Year 4: Children will do all of the above and will now be independently responsible for organising and planning the gathering, retelling the story or sharing the word of God. Children will also write prayers with the assistance of the class teacher if necessary.

Year 5: Children will build upon their previous roles and take an increasingly active role in preparing, organising and leading the worship. They will retell the story or share the Word of God and write their own prayers. Children will also begin to take responsibility for designing the mission for the week, with the support of the class teacher, deciding what mission they will ask the children to take out into the world.

Year 6: Children will be responsible for independently organising, planning and leading all elements of the class worship using the Wednesday Word, the prayer cards and other resources as a guide. The teacher will also lead discussion during worship to further children's understanding.

Planning forms (appendix 3) are used by all staff and the children when deciding on the resources they will use during the worship and how they will present the worship. Class worships are based around the following format:

Gather together,

Share the word of God,



Optional discussion,

Response to the word of God,

Going forth and Mission

Teachers are confident in using the resources in school when leading worships and the children are able to use the resources in their class worship boxes to prepare for their roles. Class teachers use various resources to help with the planning of class worships including the Wednesday Word, Pray Together books, Prayer cards in each class and their current topic in RE. Children are enthusiastic about their role in class worship and enjoy leading the different elements.

Father Aveyard (Parish Priest), Sophie Hayes (Worship Lead) and Helen Regan (RE Lead) also provide training and support for worships across the school.

Eucharist:

Eucharistic celebrations in school 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. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to the *'Directory for Masses with Children'* as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship:

The Deputy Head teacher Miss Sophie Hayes has the responsibility for leading Collective Worship in the school which she shares with Miss Roxanne Taylor – Headteacher, Miss Helen Regan– RE Co-ordinator and Father Aveyard – Parish Priest.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator and Worship Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Standards in Collective Worship:

Who	How	When
Class Based:	Participating in planned worships.	Termly
Sophie Hayes Helen Regan	Checking worship folders	Fortnightly



Whole school: Roxanne Taylor	during weekly monitoring Speaking to pupils and staff	Termly
Sophie Hayes	Collecting feedback from visitors to worships.	After whole school events where visitors have been invited.
Helen Regan		
Father Aveyard		Termly
Staff	Evaluating worship plans.	Termly
Pupils	Observing worships across school.	Termly
Parents		
Governors	Giving verbal and written feedback to staff as appropriate.	As appropriate
Visitors		

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed following the 3-year Policy Review Cycle of the school or when there are significant changes to the curriculum that warrant it. It may also be reviewed earlier should it no longer comply with school practice or the legal requirements of schools.



Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for RE and Collective Worship

- **Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship**
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family 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 to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the GB of standards and developments in Collective Worship
- Arrange termly planning meeting of SLT and Parish Priest to establish timetable and identify forms of whole school/key stage/class worship to be in place as well as plan opportunities for parish involvement.

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and staff 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 school chaplain (To seek to form a partnership with a school chaplain)
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- 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



Appendix 2

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.

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.

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 this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests 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 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.



Appendix 3: Planning form

Worship Planner



Term/ Week:

Date:

Worship leaders:

		Child led	Adult led
Before worship			
Gathering:			
Share the word:			
Discussion (optional)			
Response			
Prayer			
Share the mission			



WORSHIP PLANNER



CLASS : _____

Date : _____

Something to say

Words from scripture
 Words from a prayer
 Words from a prayer used during the eucharist
 Words from a hymn
 Words from a wise person
 Words from holy writings
 A poem
 A story

Something to look

Precious object
 Sacred object
 Picture
 Photograph
 Special Book
 Plant / flowers
 Water
 Stones / Shells
 Candles
 Vestments
 Cards
 Decorations
 Sky
 Clouds
 Stars / Moon
 Animal
 Fish

Something to do

Gather in a group
 Gather in a circle
 Gather in a line
 Gather in a row
 Procession
 Sign of the Cross
 Hold hands / open hands
 Stand / sit / kneel
 Dance
 Drama
 Mime
 Tableau
 Puppets
 Share / give
 Take / receive
 Plant seeds
 Touch water
 Touch fabrics of various kinds
 Touch objects
 Smell incense
 Smell scents of various kinds
 Taste bread
 Taste other symbolic
 Food such as apples and honey
 Meditate
 Silence
 Anoint
 Promise

Something to sing and music to listen to

- Instrument music
- Birds
- Leaves rustling in trees
- Wind
- Rain
- Hymns
- Popular songs
- Responses, sung during the eucharist
- Laughter
- Songs of celebration, eg/. 'Happy birthday'
- Songs of praise, eg/. 'Jolly Good Fellow'

Something to say

Blessings
 Mantra
 Litany
 Exposition
 Ashes
 Station(s) of the Cross
 Novena