

'Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.'



Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Designation	Name	Date Approved	Date of Renewal
Headteacher	Mrs Samantha Birchall	June 2021	June 2023
Chair of Governors	Mr Rob Reynolds	June 2021	June 2023

Statement of Intent

Collective Worship at Corpus Christi provides opportunities for staff and children to come together to worship God. Whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it will be Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church and having Christ at its heart. It will take 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 or religious backgrounds;

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

Aims

Through our worshipping together, we aim for the following:

- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging to a community with a common ethos and shared values;
- To respond to and celebrate life by taking time out to “wonder at”, mark as special;
- To contemplate some of the mystery of God;
- To enrich the religious experience of all members of the school community;
- To reflect on the spiritual and moral issues;
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy;

Who?

- Governors are responsible for ensuring that the school has a Collective Worship Policy.
- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child every day.
- Class teachers are responsible for planning and enabling Collective Worship to take place daily.
- Children will have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship.

Where?

Collective Worship can occur in the following places:

- Within the classroom
- In the school hall
- In the outdoor environment
- At church

*“As a rule all acts of Collective Worship should take place in the school premises. However, the governing bodies of grant maintained, aided and special agreement schools have the discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on **special occasions.**”*

(Education Reform Act 1988)

When?

It is a legal requirement that every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship.

To ensure that Collective Worship is meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants it needs to occur at the most appropriate time for the class, key stage or whole school group.

Class teachers are encouraged to look at their weekly curriculum and place Collective Worship at a time which enables the children to have a quality experience.

Whole School Collective Worship takes place each Wednesday 3:00pm -3:30pm and Friday 3:00pm-3:30pm when children lead the weekly worship.

How?

Collective Worship can be led by the following people:

- Head teacher/senior leader
- Class teacher
- Children
- Visitors
-

In order to provide children with quality Collective Worship experiences, teachers at Corpus Christi will deliver the following:

- Ensure that the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of learners.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit (possibly through music/lighting)
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the *invitation* to prayer and worship
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

Teachers will use a variety of building blocks:

- Short address/personal experience
- Readings (mainly from scripture)
- Drama/dance/song/role play
- Artefacts/posters/natural materials
- Time for reflection/silence
- Prayer: informal/formal (Psalms/children's own prayers)
- Responses through singing or speaking

Planning and recording

Planning will be done with reference to the following sources:

- The liturgy for the week
- Come and See topics
- The church's seasons
- Significant dates
- The whole curriculum
- Local, national and/or world events

Use will be made of a simple planning sheet (See appendix 1)

All planning should be flexible in order to respond to changing situations within the school, children's lives and the wider community as well as responding to the children's emotional and spiritual needs on that day.

Collective Worship will be recorded through the following formats:

- Planning sheets
- Collections of learner's contributions
- Prayers and reflections
- Photographs/display

Evaluation

Collective Worship will be evaluated with reference to the variety of experiences. This will be done at a staff meeting on a termly basis.

This Collective Worship Policy was recommended by the Archdiocese and was agreed to be implemented by the Governing Body, Head Teacher and all teaching staff.

**Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNER**

CLASS:	LEADER:	DATE:
PREPARE		
GATHER		
LISTEN		
RESPOND		
GO FORTH		

2) Collective Worship Guidelines

God is present and active in all authentic human experience. Worship is naming and celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. Creating a sacred space for worship is to create a space where the unity of God and creation is reverently symbolised and celebrated.

Worship remembers and celebrates the marvellous things God works in our lives. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is a spontaneous response to life.

The worship that takes place in school is Collective Worship.

Collective Worship 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 relationships, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Worship will be at the very **heart** of Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School and *will reflect something special* or separate from ordinary school activities.

Liturgy

Liturgy means "work of the people" and points to the fact that something else is going beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action. Liturgy makes explicit the celebration deriving from highlighting every instance of worship, which occurs in our daily lives.

Liturgy speaks to the whole person and involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell. To liturgical celebration therefore should be brought all human symbols of expression – art, dance, poetry, music, gesture, stillness (See 'Children's Directory for Masses.')

The purpose of adapting liturgy for children is to lead them into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish. Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity and simplicity.

All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, **acts of worship**. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may not include **symbol and action**.

Assembly

An assembly is any experience of **gathering/assembling** in school. It may include an act of worship but the difference between worship and assembly *must* always be clear. At Corpus Christi, we have two whole school assemblies each week, both include an act of Collective Worship. A focus table is present during the Collective Worship part of the assembly, and follows the four parts of Worship, Gathering, Listening, Responding and Going Forth. It is opened and closed with the sign of the cross. This provides a focus for Collective Worship and distinguishes it as a separate and distinct part of the assembly.

Prayer

God calls every human person into a loving relationship. This relationship, as with others, grows through communication. Prayer is the way in which we engage in communication with God. Christians believe that prayer is essential to human fulfilment for it is only in God that we can discover ourselves, our meaning and our purpose.

Prayer consists of the following:

- Listening: being attentive to the voice of God in every moment of life;
- Speaking: expressing our thoughts and feelings;
- Reflecting: thinking about our relationship with God. God's actions in history and in the unfolding mystery of our lives;
- Resting: simply being consciously in the presence of God, knowing that we are loved;

Prayer can have a variety of forms and express different things:

- Blessing and Adoration: blesses God for the goodness which has been shown to humankind;
- Petition: asks for forgiveness and calls for the establishment of the Kingdom of God;
- Intercession: consists in asking on behalf of another;
- Thanksgiving: acknowledging the gifts which God has given;
- Praise: the prayer which praises God simply because God is.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others may form **part** of an act of worship.

Through the *Come and See* programme, children at Corpus Christi are introduced to a variety of forms and styles of prayer in a developmental way.

During Collective Worship they are given opportunity to use a variety of styles and forms of prayer. From the Foundation Year children at Corpus Christi are introduced to repetitive prayers, gestures, hymns, music, traditional prayers (suited to age of children) and litanies in the classroom. This is continued throughout the school and is extended beyond the classroom to whole school settings and from Year 2 to Year 6 to the Church setting on Holy days, e.g. Ash Wednesday and the Feast of All Saints.

3) Collective Worship in our School

Guidance to staff

How can we ensure that it is an enriching religious experience?

Look at timing/content/building blocks and **very simple** planning and recording. (Whole school - use L.A.C.E. planner, Class based – use Class recording system).

Timing

Look at your timetable to see where Collective Worship is **best placed for that week** to help create a sense of awe and wonder.

Where?

Classroom/school grounds/hall – try to vary the location

Spontaneity – seize the moment!

Be flexible – If a child brings in something exciting/If it snows/A beautiful Spring day/A special event

Content

Choose a topic/theme – may be related to Come and See Topic, the liturgical season, a feast day, World event or any other curriculum area/any general topic, e.g. Autumn/Growth/Health/Safety/The Body/Movement/Water/History

Focus

Drapes

Candles

Artefacts (e.g. Autumn leaves, bulbs)

God's Story

Posters

Poems

IWB presentation

Keep it simple – less is more, variety is the key

The focus can be a box/chair with a drape over it if you have no space for a table.

Create a special atmosphere of music/lighting

Vary your class arrangements: sitting in a circle/standing/staying at tables

Suitability

Collective Worship should be an enriching religious experience suitable to the age/ability of **all** present. This has implications for more class or key stage gatherings than Whole School worship.

At whole school gatherings (e.g. Good Work Assembly) there needs to be a distinction between the 'assembly' and the Collective Worship, e.g. give out good work and behaviour awards first, then create a prayerful atmosphere – light a candle, play music and lead into the Collective Worship part of the gathering.

Respond: Rejoice

This stage of Come and See should be used following the same ideas as a Collective Worship planned outside of curriculum RE.

Resources

Share within school e.g. drapes, crosses, different size and shapes of candle.

Use in different ways e.g. bare cross in Lent, white cloth in Easter, purple in Lent

Highlight the role of Mary in May and October. Lots of ordinary objects can be used as artefacts for the focus table.