

Frassati Catholic Academy Trust
St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus.



To the greater glory of God

Collective Worship Policy

Date policy last reviewed: February
2022

Signed by:

Rosie Akehurst

18/02/2022

Headteacher

Date:

Marius Hopley

19/02/2022

Chair of governors

Date:

Our policy for Collective Worship at St Mary's supports our mission statement *'learning and loving on our journey with Jesus'*. Recognising Jesus and His teachings are central to all we do. We seek to provide a stimulating learning environment which celebrates the achievements of every individual and enables them to reach their full spiritual, academic, social, creative and physical potential.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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 with Him, which is 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.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be submitted under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Our Aims

Collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To enable the spiritual development of each child
- To help children become familiar with the traditional forms of worship in the Catholic Church and to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To provide opportunities to develop a relationship with God.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- The celebration of Mass is central to the mission of St Mary's and worshipping as a school community. Mass is celebrated regularly throughout the year in school on Feast days and at the beginning and end of each term. Individual Key stage 2 groups also attend Mass at the parish church. The whole school celebrates with the parish community each year in October at the parish church.

Policy into Practice

- On Mondays whole school Worship takes place and focuses on the Sunday Gospel Reading.
- On Wednesdays the Key Stage Worship is led by a Phase leader.
- On a Thursday the children meet with their Prayer Partner prior to Celebration Assembly for some quiet, reflective prayer time together.
- Class Worship takes place on the remaining days; the responsibility to lead Class Worship is shared between class teachers, teaching assistants and the children allowing all members of our community to take ownership of our faith.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates of the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in all acts of worship.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.
- To develop skills in our pupils that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

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
- Those for whom school may be their first or only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds. It is an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Collective Worship is recorded on a Liturgy Planner to keep a note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources through displays, collections of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, videos etc.

Equal Opportunities

Parents have the right to withdraw children from daily Collective Worship, but as a Catholic School, it is hoped that our acts of Worship are seen and accepted as an intrinsic part of school life

This policy will be reviewed in January 2023