



# Collective Worship Policy

*To love, to serve and learn.*

We are a school family journeying together in God's love.

We serve each other to achieve our best.

We learn in fun and creative ways,  
respecting everyone's gifts.

At St. Edward's we aim to fulfil the words of Jesus in John's Gospel. 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' *John 10: 10.*

***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 help to develop a loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him
- 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 help the children develop an understanding of their cultural heritage (the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church).

## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School and Legal Requirements:** *(Please refer to our RE Policy also)*

The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils but at St Edward's it is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life, which contributes to its distinctiveness.

Collective Worship 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 for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. (Simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer said either by the teacher or everyone present does not fulfil this requirement.)



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 and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions - or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

All teachers are given a Collective Worship Resource Pack - with resources from various sources, including the Diocese.

### **Assemblies**

Our 'assemblies' are a coming together of the school community. They provide an opportunity to extend, enhance, and support the RE programme used in the classroom and can be a time of greeting, reflection, praise, prayer, thanksgiving, celebration, and / or meditation. Not all our assemblies are acts of collective worship. The following assemblies are acts of collective worship.

The **Gospel Assembly** takes place every Monday afternoon for the whole school, usually led by the Headteacher with the help of the GIFT Team. It may be based on the Gospel of the previous Sunday, or it may be in response to world events or other significant events in the church calendar. It has the four- part liturgical structure detailed below.

On Thursdays we have a timetable of either KS1, KS2, Class or Celebration Assemblies. The teaching staff and the Headteacher lead them on a rota basis. These assemblies are planned for at the start of the year by staff agreeing on themes and / or resources to be used.

Each day after lunch the children come in to a 'stilling time' of quiet music and sometimes quiet prayer and / or reflection - depending on current circumstances in the class, school, Runcorn or the world.

On Fridays there is a whole school Collective Worship after lunch where each of the older classes has a time of child-led Collective Worship, planned by the children. In the younger classes, the teacher or members of the GIFT Team will plan and deliver the Collective Worship.

When planning our Collective Worship we adhere to 5 simple principles:

- Keep it short
- Make it regular
- Keep it simple
- Provide variety
- Get children involved

**The liturgical structure of planned collective worship is made up of four parts.**

1. **Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment
2. **Listen** - the Word of God is proclaimed
3. **Response** - the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action.
4. **Going Forth** - giving the children something (a thought, a direction, an action) from the experience of the liturgy, that they can take into their daily lives and experiences..



Sometimes classes will plan a joint collective worship and sometimes children will lead the collective worship and will be supported to plan the collective worship themselves.

Festivals and the celebration of special days take place when appropriate. At the beginning of December St Edward's School has an Advent service, and a Christmas Service at the end of term. At Easter time we have an Easter service - all of which are lead and presented by the children to their families.

Whole school Masses are held in St Edward's Church or in the school hall on Holy Days and at significant times in the school year (e.g. beginning and end of school year). All classes are involved in the preparation of the Masses as appropriate. Parents and parishioners are welcomed at these Masses.

### **Prayer**

Children are taught daily prayers and also the various prayers and responses of the Mass as appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Each classroom has a focal point for prayer and children pray together with their teacher at the beginning and end of the day, and at lunchtime.

Opportunities for spontaneous prayer and individual reflection exist in collective worship and stilling time in the classroom. The GIFT Team help the children to develop their prayer life by introducing new ways to pray.

### **Recording:**

Collective Worship is recorded:

- in a class Collective Worship book.
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions in handmade books, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

There is a 'Collective Worship' Action Plan which is reviewed each year when the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in contributing to, organising and leading collective worship.

### **Review of Policy:**

The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner as necessary.

This policy was reviewed and updated - June 2019