

ST CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: April 2012

Review Date: July 2013

School Motto
'Nil Ante Deum'
'Nothing Before God'

This forms our Mission Statement and the basis for our Collective Worship Policy.

1. Policy Statement

It is the aim of St Catherine's Catholic High School to create an ethos in which the school community has the opportunity to grow together in their faith. Our school motto is 'Nil Ante Deum', 'Nothing Before God'. We seek to offer an education in the practice of the faith, in prayer and worship, which puts God first.

2. The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with God, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Place of Collective Worship In The Life of Our School

In this policy the term Collective Worship refers to the legal requirement for a daily act of worship. Daily Collective Worship is a statutory requirement under the 1944 Education Act. 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. The daily act of worship is not intended to include the delivery of the liturgical cycle of worship.

Worship is more than a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Daily Worship Opportunity

Every day we make it our priority to give the pupils in our charge the opportunity to reflect and pray at the start of the day. We recognise that this is something pupils have a right to and a need of and that it is incumbent on us to make this possible. Teaching and support staff will also start briefing and full staff meetings with prayer. All full school based INSET days will begin with a liturgy.

Worship and the religious life of the school is a **shared responsibility** of **all** those involved within the community of St Catherine's Catholic High School.

Principles Of All Liturgical Worship

All Liturgical Acts of Worship in St Catherine's Catholic High School will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality activity, planned and organised, and suitable to the age, social and religious development of the pupils.
- Give pupils a positive liturgical experience. We will achieve this by making the liturgy relevant to the lives of the pupils and involve them through words, music, drama, silence, reflection, listening and sharing.

The Aim of Collective Worship

Is 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 positive attitudes.
- To participate fully.
- To take time out for personal reflection and appreciation.
- To respond to the wider and global community.
- Daily Collective Worship will be in the form of prayer. Prayer can be described as the 'raising of one's heart and mind to God or the requesting of good things from God' (St John Damascene).
- Daily Collective Worship will take place every morning via form tutors, year group or whole school assemblies.

Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship

- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere in the classroom.
- The main focus of the prayer will be related to the theme of the week as identified in the Staff Bulletin.
- Collective prayers are also available in the Pupil Planner and resources and guidance is available from DHP and the RE department.

Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship via Form Tutors

- Daily prayer is the responsibility of Form Tutors except when whole school and year group assemblies are taking place.
- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to ensure that the legal requirement of a daily act of worship is given to their form each morning.
- It is the responsibility of the Form Tutor to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere in the classroom. This may be achieved by:
 - Beginning and ending prayers by saying and making the Sign of the Cross.
 - Encouraging pupils to be still and to bow their heads.
- Prayer may take the form of words or silence.

Guidelines for Daily Collective Worship via Assemblies

- Each Year Group will have one assembly per week.
- Year Group assemblies will usually be led by Year Leaders.
- Upper and Lower School Assemblies will take place as scheduled.
- Prayer is to be included as an integral part of every assembly.
- It is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly to emphasise the importance of prayer by creating a conducive atmosphere. This may be achieved by:
 - Beginning and ending prayers by saying and making the Sign of the Cross.
 - Encouraging pupils to be still and bow their heads.
- It is the responsibility of every member of staff present in the assembly to support the importance of prayer by helping to create a conducive atmosphere. This may be achieved by, for example:
 - Directing pupils into the assembly in an orderly and quiet manner.
 - Supervising pupils during the assembly.
- Prayer may take the form of words or silence.

Identifying and Meeting Needs

Daily Collective Worship Support Materials:

- Weekly Staff Bulletin with school daily prayer.
- Prayers in the Pupil Planner.
- Lenten, Advent and other Diocesan materials.
- Members of the Chaplaincy Team have various resources, for example, assembly books, books on festivals.
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Staff Professional Development Needs

Staff Professional Development needs on an individual, team or whole school basis will be identified through, for example:

- Discussions with individuals, line managers and especially the Year Leader.
- Performance management.
- Regular in-service surveys.
- Discussions at Tutor Group and Chaplaincy Team Meetings.
- All school based Staff INSET Days will start with a liturgy and all Full Staff Meetings and briefings will incorporate a prayer/reflection; these will also indirectly form useful exemplars.

The Collective Worship Policy Framework

The Chaplaincy Team is responsible for writing and reviewing the policy.

Consultation will involve:

Members of the Chaplaincy Team of which membership includes the School Chaplain and a Governor, Teaching and Support Staff and SLT.

Roles and Responsibilities

Whilst remembering worship is a shared responsibility of all those in our community, the following have specific responsibility:

Governors and Headteacher	To ensure the Collective Worship Policy is implemented and practiced daily.
Deputy for Ethos:	To oversee and monitor the implementation of the policy.
Chaplaincy Team:	To support, review, monitor and evaluate the practice of Collective Worship within school.
Year Leader/School:	To deliver year group assemblies, to assist at whole school assemblies and to monitor the delivery of Collective Worship within their year group.
Form Tutors:	To lead and deliver Collective Worship when Assemblies are not taking place.
	To assist at year and other school assemblies and liturgies.

Access to the Policy

The policy is open to all, including Governors, teaching and support staff, pupils, parents, visitors and the wider community.

Links with other Policies

This policy is written and is to be practiced in the context of our School Aims and Mission Statement and RE Policies.

Funding – Practice is Governed By:

- School Budget: Chaplaincy Team capitation for resources.
- Colleagues wishing to purchase resources should see Chair of Chaplaincy Team.

Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of Collective Worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils.

Monitoring and reviewing will take place by, for example:

- Form Tutor and/or Pupil Questionnaires.
- Year Leader/School and SLT Questionnaires.
- SLT Form Tutor Monitoring weeks.
- Chaplaincy Team meetings will monitor and review practice and will consider future developments.
- Year group meetings.
- SLT meetings.

The policy will be **reviewed** as part of the School Improvement Plan through the Whole School Policies cycle or as appropriate. **Evaluation** will take place at Chaplaincy Team meetings following monitoring and reviewing processes. Evaluation will particularly take place in Term 3 with a view to revising aims and setting revised or new objectives for the following school year.

Signed:

Mr M Gosling
(Executive Headteacher)

Mr T Miskell
(Chair of Governors)

Date ratified by Governing Body: 19 April 2012

Date to be reviewed: March 2013