

# St Margaret Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



### **Our Mission:**

**We try to follow Jesus in everything we do.**

We help everybody in our school family and we try to let our light shine as the light of Jesus shines.

Everyone at St. Margaret Mary's is special. We feel happy and safe.  
We are encouraged to value ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of trust, good humour, acceptance and enjoyment.

Saint Margaret Mary's school is where we come to learn through exciting and fun lessons.  
We try to always be welcoming and caring to all. We want to do our best, even if we find it difficult.

## **POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **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 the invitation to enter into a relationship with God, 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. 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 need to 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. It 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.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School**

We support 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Worship in St. Margaret Mary's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

As a Catholic school, we must:

- Build upon our faith through example, teaching, prayer and worship;
- Give children positive experiences based on sound educational, pastoral and liturgical principles;
- Lead the children towards an understanding and deeper appreciation of prayer and the sacraments;
- Gather together to praise and worship God;
- Listen to Scripture;
- Celebrate our successes, eg giving thanks for our gifts/talents;
- Seek forgiveness and guidance for our failures;
- Develop the School's Christian Ethos and shared values;
- Learn more about other World Faiths especially their great festivals;
- Develop moral awareness.

We believe that Collective Worship at St Margaret Mary's 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 enrich religious experience;
- To reinforce positive attitudes;
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## **Principles**

All Acts of Worship at St Margaret Mary's will:

- Be at the very heart of school life and must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities;
- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.

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 based on children's attention span;
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

## **School Organisation**

**Monday** - Hymn Practice is regarded as an important time for praying in the form of praising God through music and song.

**Tuesday** - Class based/ cohort/ phase

**Wednesday** - Class assemblies led by pupils

**Thursday** - Class based/ cohort/ phase

**Friday** - Celebration assembly/ Worship Assembly/ Collective Worship

## The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

### Collective Worship:

- Follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in appropriate acts of worship;
- Involves consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies;
- Allows flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community;
- Planning format includes 4 parts: *Gathering, Listen, Response, and Going Forth.*
- Develops in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way

### Monitoring and Evaluation

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 **organising** and **leading** worship in line with the Governors review of the curriculum and RE.

### Resources

- A display will be maintained in the hall reflecting the current time in the Liturgical Calendar which will act as the focal point for collective worship;
- Key Stage 1 and 2 'Acts of Worship'.
- Pray Together
- Scripture and a range of commentaries
- Prayer books and Cds
- Candles
- Crosses
- Stones

## **Prayer Room**

The Prayer Room is a multifunctional room. It has permanent displays such as the school Mission Statement and information regarding Saint Margaret Mary but it will also have displays which reflect the Liturgical Calendar. The Prayer room is used for GIFT meetings and quiet prayer and reflection for the pupils, staff and parents of St Margaret Marys.

## **Class books and Big Question books.**

Each class has a Prayer Book, this book will be used to reflect and record Collective Worship, comments and moments in the children's religious journey. Each class will also have a big question book to develop critical thinking about Religion and other subjects.