

THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk
admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk



Collective Worship Policy

Date: September 2024



OFSTED July 2019

'Pupils feel safe in school and believe that the adults take good care of them. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in the school is strong.'



Catholic Schools Inspection February 2023

'The visitor is left in no doubt that this is a loving Catholic school that prides itself on a genuine, warm welcome.'

'Staff provide the highest level of pastoral care; there is a deep commitment to the most vulnerable.'

'Prayer is central to life in Holy Family.'

At The Holy Family School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

'As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus.'

Intent

The Aims of Collective Worship:

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 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
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Principles:

All Acts of Worship at The Holy Family School will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality experience, 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.
- Celebrations will: - be short and appropriately paced taking into account the age of the children - be appropriate to their level of understanding - include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Legal requirements

The law requires all maintained schools:

- Provide daily collective worship for all pupils including in the sixth form (section 70, 1988 Education Act)
- Acts of collective worship are not to be designated curriculum time. In the context of the Catholic school this means that time of collective worship are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum for Religious Education
- Recognise and respect that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

In addition

- Foundation Governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools have a statutory responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools.

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Implementation

Worship at The Holy Family School occurs on a daily basis. An act of collective worship takes place each day, either through whole school or Key Stage assemblies, or within individual classrooms. The worship focus reflects the Liturgical calendar and follows the Gather, Word, Response, Mission format. It should be appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of those participating.

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship (Gospel Assembly)
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship
Wednesday	Whole School Hymn Practice with themes linked to the R.E. curriculum and liturgical year.
Thursday	Key Stage - Word Assembly
Friday	Whole School Collective Worship / Celebration.

Staff meetings and briefing sessions begin with a prayerful reflection to remind staff of their role and purpose as evangelists within the school community.

Each classroom contains a prayer table which acts as a stimulus for prayer. All prayer tables reflect the Liturgical season. Pupils and staff are encouraged to participate in different forms of prayer.

In addition to whole school and class worship opportunities, a weekly whole school Musical Worship session takes place to enable children and staff to pray through song. All classes timetable for daily meditation, an opportunity for quiet reflection, with an expectation that children will develop their ability to pray in stillness for increasing periods of time.

Planning and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned following a structure which references Liturgical seasons and the Religious Education curriculum. Whole school Gospel Assembly reflects on the Sunday Gospel and Key Stage collective worship sessions are planned around the Wednesday Word. Daily classroom based worship sessions is planned following the Westminster Diocese collective worship toolkit. Collective worship is planned by the children supported by an adult dependent on their age. Each collective worship follows the same format:

- Gather
- Word
- Respond
- Mission

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Scripture, music and quiet prayer are an integral part of this. In addition, pupils are taught to recite a range of prayers from heart, to enable them to pray together from memory. These will include traditional prayers, mass responses and prayers from the liturgy for special feasts.

Regular class masses and whole school masses present opportunities for each year group to lead others in worship, including parents and family, with the support of the Chaplaincy Team and members of staff.

Members of the Chaplaincy Team also plan prayer groups open to pupils and staff. These include Rosary groups during May and October and a Lenten prayer group.

Parent and Parish Links

The Catholic ethos of The Holy Family School is rooted in the values of a Christ centred life. To ensure we live out these beliefs, we support children in developing an understanding of their role as Catholics within a wider faith community.

We recognise that our parents are the primary educators of their children. We seek to promote an open and genuine partnership with parents and carers through the following:

- Welcoming parents of incoming pupils and familiarising them with the school's mission
- Encouraging the attendance and participation of family members in acts of worship, celebrations and masses
- A Welcome Service for our new Early Years parents is held at the beginning of each year
- A class mass is held each year when parents are invited into the classroom to share mass led by the parish priest and the children.

Impact

The impact of collective worship is regularly monitored and reviewed through discussion and feedback from staff, parents and pupils. This includes monitoring class led meditation and prayer and prayer tables and whole school or key stage collective worship.

Leadership and Management

The governors and the head teacher are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for whole school, class / form and year phase group worship;

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Our school must ensure:

- There is a named person who is responsible for organising Collective Worship across the school
- Collective worship, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily
- All pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day
- Collective Worship is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead
- There is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Collective Worship which clearly demonstrates the impact of the school's Catholic mission

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the R.E. leader and SLT. They will 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.

Evaluations after key events will be sought by the chaplaincy team and KS2 children. All teachers are responsible for the monitoring and development of the prayer life of the children. Evidence of class led mass and prayer should be kept in each classroom on the prayer table to be monitored each term by the R.E. leader.