

St. Edmunds Roman Catholic Primary School.



Policy for Collective Worship January 2023

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Mission Statement

St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School is a community of faith where we aim to keep Christ at the centre of everything we do. We celebrate the uniqueness of every individual, nurturing them to achieve their full potential. Our understanding and experience of the love of God grows through our way of living, behaving, learning and teaching, which is inspired by Jesus.

Vision

Our vision is an expression of how we seek to move the school forward and aims to sustain the developments we have made towards being an 'outstanding' Catholic school. We strive to inspire pupils who will learn, grow and develop in faith, talents and skills. We nurture young minds to aspire to succeed and to live confidently in an ever changing society.

The Nature of Collective Worship in St. Edmunds.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is a recognition of the importance of giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God as is our duty as a Catholic school. Collective Worship in our school is rooted in practicality. Children will be inspired by the various forms of worship to assimilate, adapt or add actions to their lives inspired by the life and word of Jesus, revealed to us via the Holy Spirit.

Collective Worship takes place within classrooms on a weekly basis. They are child led and follow the structure of **Gather – Listen – Respond - Mission.** Children (with the aid of a Teaching Assistant) select themes topical to the unique life of the class, scripture passages surrounding that theme and an achievable mission.

Other Forms of weekly collective worship include:

- Monday – Whole School Assembly
- Tuesday – Hymn Practice (where the pertinent daily Bible Readings are read and reflected upon.)
- Wednesday – Key Stage 1 Assembly
- Thursday – in class reflections*
- Friday – Key Stage 2 Assembly.

The Place of Collective Worship in St. Edmunds

Collective Worship – being a foundational cornerstone of our school life - serves all. Taking into account the educational and religious needs of all our pupils

Which Include:

- *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.*

Collective Worship seeks to welcome every child and provide them with a purpose. Providing pupils with unique opportunities to reflect, contribute, respond to and learn from.

Community Links

Families are invited to join us in a number of our school Liturgies, together with school Governors and those connected with our school through association or from the community. All children are invited and encouraged to be involved in Parish events.

The Aims of Collective Worship.

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mysteries 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 take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully across a wide range of collective worship opportunities

Foundations of Collective Worship (Principles)

Instances of Collective Worship in our school will follow uniform procedure.

Every act of worship will be

- Centred on giving Glory and Honour to God.
- Be practical for **all** children allowing them to: adapt their actions or add actions to their life based upon the moral of the worship.
- **Child based/ Child led.** Children are given agency in planning, conducting and reflecting upon acts of worship.
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.¹ In order to do this, celebrations will:

¹ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- Be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life *i.e.*, 5-6 minutes. For Key Stage 1 and 7-10 minutes. For Key Stage 2);
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

They will be:

- Properly planned
- Adequately resourced
- Evaluated by staff & students

Resources

The resources for collective worship in our school can be found in the setting room as well as within each class room. We also utilise the Church of the Most Precious Blood & St Edmund Roman Catholic Church at various key dates in the liturgical calendar.

Eucharist/ Masses

Important dates throughout the liturgical calendar *i.e.* *Holy Days of Obligation, St. Edmund's Day, Throughout Advent* are marked by a whole school at mass and receiving the Eucharist. These masses are led by various year groups. Children engage in researching the pertinent readings, psalms of the day – practicing and delivering the readings at the parish mass. Children are also given agency in writing bidding prayers. These celebrations are planned in consultation with the Parish Priest and Sacristan.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach.

Leadership

Collective Worship is led by The Collective Worship lead member – in conjunction with the wider Religious Education Coordination team.

Policy Monitoring & Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors at least every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1 – Collective Worship Calendar

This calendar is an example of the yearly cycle of collective worship in the school. Dates will vary as school years progress however the order of the services will remain the same.

12/09/2022 Yr2 Church Visit (pm)
26/09/2022 Yr6 Church Visit (pm)
30/09/2022 Reception Welcome Liturgy- 2.15pm – School Hall
03/10/2022 Yr4 Church Visit (pm)
06/10/2022 Harvest Liturgy 10am – School Hall
10/10/2022 Yr5 Church Visit (pm)
12/10/2022 KS1 Mass – 9.30am – In Church
17/10/2022 Yr3 Church Visit
19/10/2022 KS2 Mass – 9.30am – In Church
31/10/2022 Reception Church Visit (pm)
01/11/2022 Feast of All Saints 9.30am – In Church
02/11/2022 Yr1 Church Visit (pm)
18/11/2022 St. Edmund's Day – 9.30 am – In Church
15/12/2022 Christmas Carol Concert 7pm- In Church
09/01/2023 Yr6 Church Visit
16/01/2023 Yr1 Church Visit
20/02/2023 Reception Church Visit (pm)
27/02/2023 Yr2 Church Visit (pm)
22/02/2023 Ash Wednesday – 2pm School Hall 2.30pm School Hall
01/03/2023 Lent Reconciliation Service (Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6) 1.30pm
13/03/2023 Yr3 Church Visit (pm)
27/03/2023 Yr4 Church Visit (pm)
17/04/2023 Yr1 Church Visit (pm)
24/04/2023 Yr3 Church Visit (pm)
01/05/2023 Yr 2 Church Visit (pm)
08/05/2023 Yr5 Church Visit (pm)
15/05/2023 Yr6 Church Visit (pm)
17/05/2023 Liturgy for Our Lady – 1.45 pm- Church Garden
06/06/2023 Reception Church Visit
12/06/2023 Yr2 Church Visit
19/06/2023 Yr5 Church Visit
14/07/2023 Year 2 Leavers Liturgy- 2.30pm
17/07/2023 Year 6 Leavers Liturgy- 2.00pm

Appendix 2 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 subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church, "on a special occasion".

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher.

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 will 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.

Appendix 3 – the Role of the Collective Worship Co-Ordinator.

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the Parish Priest
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Adviser

Professional development / Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and formation
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently