



St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

“Hand in hand with Jesus Christ we live, love and learn together”

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school community. We expect everyone to take an active part in this.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we normally base our liturgies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. However, we conduct these in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold daily acts of collective worship. This is in the form of; whole school, Key Stage, upper/lower key stage, class and year group, liturgies and Masses. The majority of which are child led.

3.2 We conduct liturgies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and the altar will act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 We take the themes of our liturgies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Catholic Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our class assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our class assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

3.4 A variety of staff will lead Key Stage assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. These assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Our school is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 Where possible we invite parents to liturgies and assemblies and we actively encourage they attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our liturgies and assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend liturgy and Mass. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Date of Review: January 2020