

***Collective Worship Policy  
St Pius X RCVA Primary School***



***To renew all things in Christ***

## **Mission Statement**

The Motto of our school's patron Saint, Pius X is

### **To Restore All things in Christ**

St Pius X RCVA Primary School is like a family, where everyone is welcomed; where everyone is loved, respected and cared for; where everyone is helped to achieve their very best and where God is at the heart of everything we do.

We endeavour to support all members of the school community in discovering and developing their own special talents and gifts whilst fostering a love of learning , a wonder of creation, a respect for themselves and others, and a desire to be the best people they can be.

Our aim therefore is to deliver the whole curriculum in Christ ,enabling ALL of our pupils to learn and be nurtured in a warm, supportive and inclusive school where stakeholders are committed to raising the aspirations, access and attainment of all learners.

We value:

- each individual
- the teachings of the Catholic church and respect for our traditions alongside those of other cultures
- a well rounded curriculum that encompasses both academic, creative, artistic, technological and extra-curricular activity
- high standards, ensuring everyone reaches their potential and celebrate personal successes and achievements both in and out of school
  - tolerance and respect for others, facilitating equality of opportunity and a respect for other faiths and cultures in school and in the wider community
- the development of responsible and considerate citizens who have a respect for diversity and human rights
  - a variety of opportunities for every pupil to discover their own talents and be challenged and inspired
- the building of self-esteem so that pupils develop the confidence to have open hearts, open minds and the courage to be true to themselves
  - development of resilience, determination and desire to achieve
- enthusiasm, commitment and self-discipline
- parents and carers and the partnership between home, school and parish

### **The Nature of Collective Worship**

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

'The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers as an integral part of the learning and teaching should enable the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should develop a mature spiritual life.'<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship offered 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. Holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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. Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship lies with the Governing Body after 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, within Come and See RE curriculum.

## **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Pius x RCVA Primary School**

Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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.

## **The Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in St Pius X School aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore personal beliefs
- To respond to and to celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To pray using prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## Principles

All acts of worship in St Pius X School will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead 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.<sup>2</sup> Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

## Planning, content and celebration

Collective Worship is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates e.g. CAFOD Family Fast Day, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations.

A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion.

Staff and Governors begin some meetings with prayer.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Monday	A.M. Whole School Collective Worship <i>Mrs Cruise</i>	
Tuesday	Class Based Collective Worship	
Wednesday	Class Based Collective Worship	
Thursday	Class Based Collective Worship	
Friday	Class Based Collective Worship	P.M. Timetable of W/S or Key Stage Collective Worship

## Leading collective worship

As faith leader of the school, the Headteacher will plan and lead collective worship. Mrs Cruise leads Monday Morning Collective Worship with the whole school. The AHT and the RE Coordinator deputise in her absence. The class teacher will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship according to their age. Key Stage staff lead collective worship with relevant groups on a timetabled cycle.

## Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in staff and pupil collective worship planners. Planning sheets are used and photographic evidence retained to celebrate the variety and forms of collective worship throughout the school.

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<sup>2</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored through verbal feedback, informal observation between teaching teams to meet the requirements and the arrangements within the small primary setting. Pupil feedback is sought too.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48. Where a new teacher is in post, teaching and planning partners are used to support. Catholic teaching assistants also form a huge part of the monitoring and support cycle.

### **Resources**

*Resources are housed in classroom liturgy boxes and also in the RE storage cupboards in the school entrance. The RE coordinator and head teacher hold RE resourcing in high regard and look to the Diocese for recommendations and guidance. A healthy budget is used to replenish and extend the RE resources each year.*

### **The learning environment**

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'<sup>3</sup>

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

### **Retreats**

*Pupil retreats from YMT are provided each year in the form of the Year 6 mission days.*

### **Other opportunities**

*Recent changes to the partnership have meant that our weekly Friday mass is no longer in place. The staff invite parents along to some of our liturgies to continue the important practice of praying together. The school is now served by two priests within the partnership and pupils have the opportunity to attend 8.30a.m. Mass at St Pius Church each Friday before school.*

### **Eucharist**

*Pupils in Key stage 2 mark Holy days of Obligation and Feasts by attending Mass at St Pius Church.*

### **The coordinator for Collective Worship**

*The coordinator for Collective Worship is Miss Crilly. Miss Crilly took over the role in 2015 and is supported by the Head teacher, Mrs Cruise who was previously the coordinator. Between them they manage the day to day monitoring and evaluation of the subject and are both committed to providing an excellent Collective Worship experiences to pupils and also for pupils to be competent in planning and delivering collective worship too.*

### **Policy Monitoring and Review**

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

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<sup>3</sup> Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

## Appendix 1

### **The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith 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 including withdrawal from collective worship
- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

#### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

#### **Communication**

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content 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 school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

#### **Professional development/Ongoing formation**

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- 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

*[Consideration should be given to the establishment of a planning group, which might include, the coordinator, the headteacher, deputy, staff, pupils, governors and school chaplain. It would be part of the role of the coordinator to lead this group.]*