

# Collective Worship

## Policy

At

St Mary's RC Primary  
School



JTD September 2016 – Updated October 2017



## **Mission Statement**

### **St Mary's RC Primary School, Birchley**

**St. Mary's School is a safe and happy place,  
where we follow Jesus by living, loving, learning  
and working together.**

**Our school family aims to understand and follow the example set by Jesus.**

We will achieve this by:

- Using the Archdiocesan guidelines to underpin all school policies and practices.
- Developing self respect and respect of others.
- Setting good examples of positive behaviour.
- Encouraging and rewarding honesty and integrity.
- Listening to each other.
- Enabling all to contribute.
- Enabling all to recognise their actions and resulting consequences.
- Providing quality opportunities for silent prayer and/or reflection.
- Facilitating opportunities for helping others.

**Our school family aims to fully develop the potential of everyone within our school community.**

We will achieve this by:

- Providing a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, accessible by all.

- Having rigorous and robust assessment procedures which drive teaching and learning.
- Seeking enrichment opportunities.
- Celebrating success and achievement at every level.

**Our school family aims to work together with our families and parish to be an integral part of the wider community.**

We will achieve this by:

- Actively seeking out opportunities to promote the school as part of the wider community.
- Actively seeking out opportunities to enrich the local and wider community
- By encouraging links with the parish and families
- Involving local community in school/parish events.
- Making effective use of visitors to enhance the children's learning.
- Developing means of communication e.g. newsletters, reports, parent evenings and websites.

## **Aim**

At St Mary's RC Primary School we aim to ensure that children and staff have the opportunity to participate in daily high-quality Christian collective worship encouraging a regular habit of personal prayer to develop spirituality.

## **Objectives**

To achieve these aims, we will:

- Ensure that activities help to explain the teachings of Jesus and an understanding of the greatness of God
- Ensure that activities reflect the Church's Liturgical seasons
- Identify suitable times each day when collective worship takes place
- Provide a prayerful environment for quiet reflection
- Provide a prayer focus in each classroom (and Hall, where used) during activities
- Use appropriate resources for the age of the child
- Use appropriate activities that contribute to spiritual development e.g. listening to scripture, listening to music, saying psalms together, mantra, using gesture with hands or body singing, being still, meditating, contemplating, dramatising, processing, sharing celebrations, speaking, focussing on visuals
- Use a mixture of informal prayer and formal prayers
- Ensure that all present at collective worship activities are able to participate in some way
- Ensure worship is meaningful by linking planned activities to children's other experiences
- Encourage children to be involved in the planning and delivery of worship as appropriate

## **Structure**

A collective worship activity will take place each day. On Monday and Friday, collective worship takes place in the Hall and is led by either the headteacher/acting head or rayer leader. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, collective worship takes place in class and is led by the class teacher. As well as this, children learn and say prayers in the morning, before lunch and at the end of the day. (See Appendix 1 for prayers used.)

Staff agree an annual theme plan to ensure links with the church's year, Come and See topics, SEAL topics and other topical events are included (see Appendix 2 for example of this). All staff use the Liverpool Archdiocesan Collective Worship Planner to structure collective worship.

Teachers encourage children to be involved in planning and delivering collective worship, dependent on their ability. This may include preparing the prayer focus, selecting music or readings to be used, or leading the response in informal prayer. It is

expected that by Year 5, more able children will be able to plan and lead class collective worship.

### **Creating the Environment for Prayer**

To create an environment that encourages prayer, the following will be considered

- + prayerful images
- + appropriate music
- + suitable lighting
- + comfortable posture
- + atmosphere of peacefulness

#### **Prayer Focus**

Each classroom has a designated area for prayer and a small selection of objects for collective worship. Cloths may be borrowed from the blue storage boxes in the Infant PE Cupboards in the hall, but must be returned when finished with. The prayer table contains a candle, scripture, plant or flowers, focus for that topic and a cross.

#### **Cloths**

The colour of the cloth can be different for each liturgical season.

Purple:	Advent and Lent
White:	Christmas, Easter, special feast days
Gold:	Special Celebrations
Red:	Pentecost, Good Friday
Green:	Ordinary time (Pentecost to Advent. After Christmas to Lent)

The change of colour highlights the mood and focus of the prayer Church.

#### **Music**

Any suitable music can be used for gathering and/or responding during collective worship. However, the music to support Come and See can be found on the media server. (John Burland CD's purchased September 2016 – hard copies kept with RE Co-ordinator.) Other CD's can be found in the Headteacher's office.

#### **Projected images**

Images can also be used as a stimulus or to help explain the scripture used in collective worship. Images from God's Story and Church's Story may be useful and are stored on the media server.

#### **Focus for Prayer**

(A prayer table would contain a small selection of the following)

Candles:	candles remind us that Jesus is amongst us and is the Light of the World
Bible/God Story:	the word of God should be given prominence on the prayer table

Flowers/Plants:	greenery is a reminder of God's beautiful world and of the Gift of creation
Sacred images:	crucifix, statue, pictures of Jesus and Mary
Interesting objects:	variety of stone or shells give a good focus for prayer
Meaningful pictures:	pictures or photographs appropriate to the theme
Prayer or story/ Poetry books:	have one open that reflects the topic being studied
Oil burners:	aromatic smells are relaxing for prayer

### **Structure**

All collective worship follows the same simple structure identified in the Archdiocesan planner: Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth. It should only last for a short time (no more than 10 minutes) – allow one minute for each year of the child's age. Adults need to model the language for children when moving from one part to another.

Different situations/age groups may call for different activities to be used - some suggestions:

**Gather:** making the Sign of the Cross, a simple prayer inviting everyone to be still and join in, music, singing gathering songs, lighting the candle etc. Make sure atmosphere is quiet and calm.

**Listen:** reading scripture aloud from bible, God's story or from printed copy or projected screen. Make sure reading is not too long – simplify or pick out the most important words or phrase.

**Respond:** time to respond to scripture/thoughts heard. This has infinite possibilities. Could be silence, quiet reflection time with music, looking and reflecting on projected images, singing, gesture, symbolic action (e.g. taking object from dish).

**Go forth:** a reminder to everyone to remember what today's worship has been about and to try and relate it to their life that day. Ask everyone to try to...today.

### **Monitoring**

The Subject Leader monitors the quality and provision of Collective Worship and feeds this back to the SMT, staff and governors.

**Appendix 1– Formal Prayers introduced to the children during collective worship or Come and See lessons**

**NB copies of all the prayers listed below can be found in 'A Simple Prayer Book', or photocopied collection kept in RE Subject Leader file**

**Foundation Stage**

Sign of the cross  
Hail Mary  
Our Father

**Morning Prayer**

Good morning Lord,  
We praise your Holy name  
And thank you for giving us this lovely new day.

**Evening prayer**

Now the day is over, we lift our hands and say,  
Thank you heavenly Father for today.  
We're sorry for the wrong things but we're glad about the good.  
Keep us heavenly Father in your love.  
Amen

**Prayers before and after meals**

Simple responses at mass  
Greeting the Gospel (acclamation)  
Simple litanies of thanks and praise  
Prayerful reflection on the day  
Prayers for blessing of the Advent wreath  
Prayers for the blessing of the Advent candles

**Aged 5-7**

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Glory be to the Father

**Morning Prayers :**

Good Morning Lord,  
We praise your Holy name ,  
and thank you for giving us this lovely new day.

**Evening Prayer:**

Now the day is over,  
We lift our hands and say  
Thank you Heavenly Father  
For today.  
We' re sorry for the wrong things,  
But glad about the right.  
Keep us Heavenly Father in your love.

God our Father I've come to say,  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me.  
Guard me in the dark or light

And in the morning send your light.  
Amen

*Grace at meals*

*Bless us Lord Jesus and bless the food we are going to eat. Amen.*

*Acts of sorrow*

Prayers at Mass (Lord have mercy, prayers of Intercession,  
Children's Eucharistic Prayer 11)

Responses at Mass:

*And with your spirit*

*Peace be with you*

*Thanks be to God*

*Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ*

Greeting the Gospel:

*Alleluia*

Prayers used at Baptism

Prayers for lent (This is the wooden cross)

Simple examination of conscience/ review of the day

## **Key Stage Two**

All those listed above, plus:

I confess

Angelus

Benedictus

Magnificat

Eternal rest

Act of love

Act of contrition

The mysteries of the Rosary

Stations of the Cross

Prayers at Mass:

*Penitential rite*

*Glory to God*

*Creed*

*Offertory Prayers*

*Eucharistic Prayers for children (I, II, III)*

*Holy, holy*

*Lamb of God*

*Rite of dismissal*

Litany of the saints

Prayers used for sacramental rites

Prayers from liturgy of special feasts

Funeral Mass prayers

Blessing and giving of ashes

Saints' prayers e.g. St Teresa of Avila, St Francis of Assisi

Some simple phrases from the psalms

Morning prayer

Grace before meals

*Bless us Lord Jesus and bless the food we are going to eat. Amen.*



Evening prayer

*God, our Father, I come to say*

*Thank you for your love today*

*Thank for my family*

*And all the friends you give to me*

*Guard me in the dark of light*

*And in the morning send your light. Amen*