



## Collective Worship Policy

*At St Mary's we live love and learn with the  
guidance of God.*

# St Mary's Voluntary Catholic Primary Academy

## Aims:

### To provide children with the opportunity to:

- Praise and worship Our Lord.
- Reflect the values of the Gospels.
- Plan their own personal contributions to Collective Worship.
- Respond to and participate in the worship offered.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Celebrate God working within us.
- Understand the need for, and importance of prayer.

Opportunities for Collective Worship at St. Mary's follow various formats and are held at different times each day.

Formats include:

1. Daily Collective Worship in each class according to archdiocesan recommendations.
2. Class prayer time
3. Statement to live by assembly – Mondays
4. House and Class assemblies
5. Whole school assembly – Fridays
6. Class gathering for a Mass, Service or Liturgy
7. Key Stage gathering for the above
8. Whole School gathering for the above
9. First Holy Communion Celebrations
10. Celebrating prayer through music
11. Rejoice celebrations at the end of every "Come and See" topic.
12. Be spirited reflective weeks
13. Opportunities to develop staff spirituality.

***We invite all members of our community to participate in Collective Worship, regardless of belief, ability or background, and we work hard to make it relevant and rewarding for all.***

### **1. Daily Collective Worship in Class:**

Each class gathers together for a period of Collective Worship on days when no school or key stage Collective Worship is planned. The duration of this gathering depends on the age of the child. A guide for this would be approximately one minute for the age of each child. All classes have a focus area. Children are encouraged to lead and plan as far as possible using a range of resources to encourage reflection, appropriate to their age.

A list of possible themes for each week of the year is available incorporating key religious feasts and "Virtues and Values" themes.

However, children and teachers may wish to include themes from "Come and See" topics and themes, the liturgical year, events within our school and classes, national or world events, or any other appropriate areas.

Collective Worship is planned for and evaluated.

### **2. Class prayer time.**

Children also pray together in class at the start and end of each day, then before lunch in FS and KS1. KS2 Children also pray after lunch. Formal prayers, or children's own prayers can be used.

### **3. Statement to Live by Assembly**

Every Monday a statement to live by assembly is celebrated by the whole school. The Statements are then displayed around school and in classrooms as a focus for class and individual prayers. These celebrations are led by the children and Chaplaincy leader

### **4. House or Class Assembly**

On Thursday House and class assemblies are used to show the children how to put their faith into action. The topics of the assembly may come from a recent news story and aim to show the children how their faith can make a difference in our world

### **5. Whole School Assembly**

The whole school, including staff, gather in the hall on a Friday morning for Collective Worship. This is followed by a celebratory assembly led by the Headteacher. There is a great emphasis on moral development through sharing examples of kindness, consideration and good behavior. Self – esteem and responsibility are promoted. Children share their talents & achievements. Students of the week are presented in this assembly. Parents are invited to join us for this celebration.

### **6/7. Class / Key Stage or Whole School Masses / Services / Assemblies**

The whole school, class or key stage gather for the above in class, the school hall or church. This is to mark the celebration of a school event or a Holy Day in the church's calendar . In addition classes lead Rejoice assemblies based on a "Come and See" topic. Parents and parishioners are invited to these celebrations, whether they are in school or Church.

### **8. First Holy Communion Programme**

The school seeks to support the parish in its work preparing children for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The children are guided through the programme with the support of the parish and their parents. Weekly sessions are held with the support of the parish catechists. Children attend a spiritual retreat before making their first communion

The whole school and parish community celebrates these Sacraments with the children.

### **9. Celebrating Prayer through Music.**

Music makes a powerful contribution to Collective Worship at St Mary's through singing, for example during our Easter celebrations and our Whole school Nativity, and in Masses/liturgies. Each class has a CD of hymns which can be used in class Collective Worship.

### **10. Rejoice Celebrations.**

These take place during the final stage of each "Come and See" topic. Children are encouraged to plan and lead as much as possible using the "Come and See" planner. Parents and other visitors may be invited to participate.

### **11. Resources**

Each class has a focus area which the children organize. All classes have access to whiteboards, internet resources("Come and See",Mission Together, CAFOD) , God's Story, Church's Story, Archdiocesan CD, and their own artefacts. Posters, fabrics, candles, hymn books and CDs are stored centrally.

RECO provides regular updates on available resources.

## **12. Staff Spirituality**

Staff are invited to participate in “Collective Worship” in order to support and develop their own spirituality. This may be through termly “Come and See ” reflections, attendance and participation in school Masses and liturgies, archdiocesan training and in spirituality INSET.

### **Elements of Collective Worship Involve:**

- Music
- Prayer
- Words
- Scripture
- Silence
- Symbolic Action
- Suitable Environment
- Ministry
- Gesture

Not every celebration will involve all of the above elements. Some parts will be done by all, others by individuals.

### **Planning:**

Planning sheets for Acts of Collective Worship are available based on the four part structure of:

- Gather
- Listen
- Respond
- Go forth

Planning sheets are available in “Come and See” files and on the website. All staff receive training either through the archdiocese or through staff meetings. RECO also provides demonstrations and additional support as required. Collective Worship is moderated and evaluated, and there is an exemplar portfolio available to support staff and celebrate good practice.

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. The review will assess its implementation and effectiveness and take into account any recent new guidelines.