

St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Collective Worship Policy and Guidelines for Implementation

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" Acts 2:42

September 2018



St Patrick's
Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Patrick's Collective Worship Policy

1. Date of Policy

September, 2018

Date of Renewal

September, 2020

2. St Patrick's Academy as part of the wider Catholic Community

The Catholic community should naturally celebrate that Jesus is Lord and come together to worship as the People of God. As a Catholic school, St Patrick's aims to live out its Mission Statement and create opportunities for worship and for active involvement in liturgy. We aim to give all students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Gospel values and how to practice them.

We have a legal obligation under the 1988 Education Reform Act to provide a daily Act of Collective Worship.

The law requires the act of worship be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and under recent Government instruction (Nov, 2014) we aim to include opportunities in Collective Worship for students to explore and learn about British Values.

3. Aims

All Collective Worship aims to up hold the Mission Statement of St Patrick's Academy.

St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy Mission Statement

At St Patrick's Catholic Academy, we are an inclusive, caring, learning community who endeavour to use the gifts and talents given to us by God to our full potential to help others and to **Shine in the Light of Christ**. The life, example and teachings of Jesus Christ underpins everything we do and who we are.

At St. Patrick's we strive to live, and encourage others to live the Gospel. We aim to achieve this through:

- The nurturing of the Catholic Faith.
- Seeking to develop the faith of all at school, irrespective of where they may be on their personal faith journey.
- Putting our Faith into practice in the quality of care and support that we extend to others; creating an ethos that exemplifies the teaching of Jesus Christ so that others can come to know God's love as we do.
- Celebrating our Faith through Mass, Collective Worship, Personal prayer and taking part in the preparation for the Holy Sacraments.
- Welcoming the community to share all forms of prayer and worship with us making it a relevant and meaningful experience for all.
- The effective delivery of a quality, rich curriculum, striving to develop the whole child and enable all pupils to fulfil their full potential by acquiring the knowledge and skills that will enable them to grow spiritually, morally, physically and academically and to make a valuable contribution in society.
- The encouragement of a positive partnership between home, school and parish, respecting all cultural and faith backgrounds and practices.
- Having high expectations for all, leading by example, encouraging pupils to develop self-respect, confidence, independence, personal aspirations and to set themselves high standards.

- The establishment and maintenance of a strong sense of identity and belonging, through the consistent promotion of high standards of conduct and respect for all.
- We want our children to feel happy, loved, respected, safe and valued as individuals in order for them to show kindness, respect, tolerance, acceptance and to celebrate our differences as we work together as a community.
- We work and worship collaboratively with all the schools in Our Lady of Lourdes Trust to deliver the best Catholic education for all our pupils.

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers, irrespective of race, gender, disability, special educational needs, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and celebrate diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We believe everyone has a contribution to make and will enrich our community.

At St Patrick's, we believe that diversity is a strength, which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit here. We believe every individual is created in the image of Christ and as such should be respected, welcomed and valued in order to be able to **Shine in the Light of Christ**.

“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.” Pope Benedict XVI. All Collective Worship at The Becket school links with the Catholic Church mission of evangelisation. We will provide opportunities to live the Catholic liturgical year and work closely with all of our Parishes to provide opportunities for students to explore and reflect on their faith.

We aim to place Christ at the centre of all that we do in our Collective Worship. With the primary aim of promoting the fullness of Christian life through an educational philosophy in which faith, culture and life are brought into harmony.

‘Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.’ (*Religious Education and Collective Worship* 1/94)

4. Guidelines for Implementation

Acts of Worship

The primary focus of an Act of Worship is to create a powerful and prayerful experience where young people can encounter the living God and engage with their faith.

Acts of Worship are accessible to all, regardless of belief and background and will provide students with interesting and varied opportunities to experience both contemporary and traditional prayer.

Whole School, Key Stage & Class Acts of Worship

During a typical school week students will have daily Acts of Worship.

On Mondays, whole school Acts of Worship are led by the SLT and will be inspired by the Gospel from the previous Sunday. The weekly Statement to Live By will be shared as well as the Whole School Weekly Mission. Members of the chaplaincy team will be involved in setting the prayer focus and sharing the meaning of the Gospel as well as sharing prayers.

On Tuesdays Acts of Worship take the form of prayer through music and children learn new hymns as well as celebrating with familiar music. This is led by class teachers on a rota basis.

On Wednesdays, the school chaplaincy teams work with Trust Chaplains and members from different year groups each week to plan, prepare and lead a whole school Act of Worship based on the Word of the Week that links in with the Becket School where most of our pupils feed to.

School masses are also celebrated usually on Wednesdays unless they fall on a different feast day.

On Thursdays, in class time Acts of Worship staff and students work together to create and lead varied and interesting worship experiences. Each week classes will explore the current prayer theme, liturgical season and the Statement to Live By. There will also be an opportunity to reflect on that week's Gospel scripture again.

On Fridays, Acts of Worship are a celebration of the skills and talents given to us by God in House or Class Acts of Worship.

Where simultaneous Acts of Worship are being led in multiple locations care will be taken to make the space suitable and reverent.

Liturgies throughout the liturgical year

When important dates in the liturgical year fall within term time, specially prepared liturgies are celebrated by the community and are led by staff, students and the Chaplaincy Teams. These will be planned, prepared and delivered with the same high standards and will make special effort to celebrate the Catholic liturgical tradition in an inclusive and accessible way.

Students and Staff are encouraged, with the support of the Chaplains, to take an equal part in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship throughout the school year. Staff will model high quality collective worship experiences to the students. Students will be nurtured, praised and encouraged to lead collective worship with their peers.

Planning & Preparation

Acts of Worship will be thoughtfully prepared and the focus will be as described above. The Statements to Live By materials and Be Inspirational Website resources will support planning and preparation.

Acts of Worship will be rooted in scripture; it will feature prominently, and connect directly with the theme.

Acts of Worship will be planned using the 'Be Inspirational' planning sheets, with the support of the School Chaplains. Following the plans and templates will help to ensure that each Act of Worship contains something to see, something to hear, something to think about and something to do, ensuring that it is inclusive and engaging.

Delivery

An Act of Worship will always begin and end with the Sign of the Cross to remind students and staff that Christ is at the centre of our faith community.

In all Acts of Worship, it is important that an appropriate atmosphere representative of the liturgical season is established. Notices and announcements will all be given out before the Act of Worship begins and where possible the students will be dismissed in a prayerful and meaningful way to carry the spirit of the experience into their day.

Acts of Worship will be delivered with reverence and respect for the spiritual and liturgical content and, if appropriate, for the sacred spaces in which they are celebrated. Use of the focus is encouraged as a focal point.

Evaluation and Development

Where possible, Acts of Worship will be evaluated, either informally through discussion and comment or using the Be Inspirational evaluation sheet. These will be collated regularly in the School Evidence Folder.

The style and nature of our Acts of Worship will continually be open to the needs of the community and be open to incorporating new ideas and experiences, whilst always staying true to our Catholic ethos.

Mass

Mass is celebrated at least every half term in school or church and are open to staff, students and the Local Community. The dates of Whole school mass are published as part of the whole-school calendar at the beginning of the academic year and on the newsletter for parents weekly. On Holy Days of Obligation two Masses are celebrated and the Parish community are invited to join us.

Mass involves all members of the community and where appropriate parts of the liturgy will be led by different members of the community. Time will be given to prepare and practice music as an integral part of the worship.

Prayer throughout the day

Staff will ensure that a prayer is said at the start of every day, at the end of the last lesson before lunch and at the end of the last lesson of each day. The school day begins and ends in prayer and other opportunities for reflection will be encouraged by staff and students. Staff and Governors' meetings and staff briefings will also start with a time of prayer and all those present will be invited to share in whatever way they feel comfortable. Opportunities for personal prayer for children are planned for in each class in a creative way. All new teaching staff to the school are trained on how to deliver collective worship and use Be Inspirational.

Grace before Meals

At the end of the morning period, students and staff will pray together before going to lunch. Students and staff can make use of the 'Be Inspirational' resources and the prayers in their class.

Celebrating the liturgical seasons

Special opportunity is given throughout the liturgical year to embrace the traditional prayers of the Church. During the months of October and May there will be the opportunity to pray the Rosary will form part of the daily prayer resources for Advent, Lent and the month of May.

During Advent and Lent, students will be given the opportunity to make us of the sacrament of reconciliation.

Collective worship celebrates and shows the very best of our faith and offers a tangible articulation of God's love for all regardless of our differences, cultures, or beliefs.