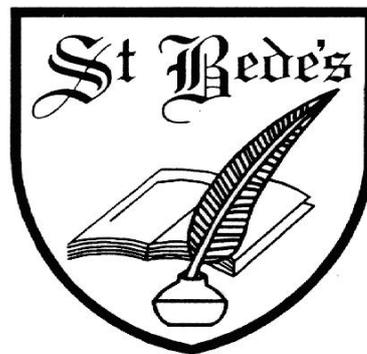


St Bede's RC Primary School



'One in unity, rich in diversity'

Collective Worship Policy

2015-2016

Mission Statement

Please see appendix 1

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian 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.'¹

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship 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.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that 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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests 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. Bede's School

Worship in St. Bede's School is more than just a legal requirement. It 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. Bede's 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

¹ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005

- 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. Bede’s 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.² 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.

Parish and parents are invited to participate in some celebrations. (appendix 1 Liturgical Calender)

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

Staff pray together at the start of each staff meeting. They also attend Mass each January with the other Deanery schools and Carmel College. At the start of inset day’s staff have attended various Collective Worship liturgies.

The timetable for Collective Worship is as below.

	9:00 – 10:20		10:45 – 12:15	13:00 – 14:00		14:10 – 15:10
Monday						
Tuesday						
Wednesday			Y6	Early Years/Rec		Y 1b
Thursday						Y1a Y2 Y4 Y5
Friday						Y3

All classes Morning prayer, grace before and after meals, evening prayer

Nursery: Prayers said Morning; 9:00 and 11:30 Afternoon 13:00 and 15:00

Collective Worship at end of each “Come and See” topic for all year groups.

Pupils plan their own liturgies using the planning sheet. (appendix 2)

Recording

² Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

Collective Worship is recorded in Teacher's Planning Files. The Collective Worship coordinator has examples of various liturgies that have taken place within individual classes and school settings throughout the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Coordinator has worked with pupils of Key Stage Two to design various Collective Worship. He has also modelled examples of good Collective Worship.

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, (Appendix 3).

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform SEF 48.

Resources

Each class has a Collective Worship Box which contains various artefacts and clothes for the liturgical year. Artifacts are checked and updated each year. There are focal points in each class room and the main hall. Around the school we have various posters showing aspects of church and the sacraments.

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'³

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.

Other opportunities

Pupils have attend Mass at the various parishes connected to the school. Some pupils have attended celebration Liturgies such as the "Year of Faith" celebration at the Sage.

Eucharist

Pupils attend Mass at various times during the year. They start each school year with a Mass that takes place in the hall.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

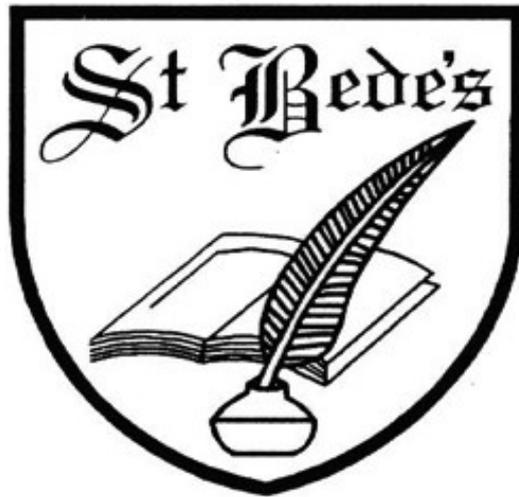
Mr G. Connor is the Collective Worship coordinator and the School Chaplin. (Please see appendix 4 for role of the Collective Worship coordinator)

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.



³ Christ at the Centre Rev Marcus Stock, 2005



We Love and Learn Together in the Light of the Lord.

Sharing together: We are one family.

Trusting and respecting all.

Being the best we can be.

Enriching our love of learning.

Discovering our potential.

Embracing the teachings of Jesus.

Safe and secure in our school.

Name _____ Date _____

WALT: prepare a class liturgy

Gathering, word, action/ritual and sending.

a. What seating arrangement will we use? What will be our focal point? Who will be the leader/presider?

1. How will we **gather**?

(Music, stillness, breathing prayers, opening greetings, sign of the cross, lighting a candle, song, litany)

2. How will we proclaim the **Word**? Which **Word** will we choose to reflect on?

(process with candles if possible, use a gospel acclamation, sign forehead, lips and heart)

3. What will be our **Response** to the word? Will it take the form of an **Action** or a **Ritual**?

(lighting a candle, passing round a candle, sign of peace, holding hands, sprinkling with water, signing with oil, water, ashes, laying on of hands, blessings, dance, signing, singing a response, procession, responses involving the senses, placing something on the focal point, taking something off the focal point)

4. How will we send **forth**? What is the **mission**?
(hymn, music, formal prayer, procession, song with actions, signs, gestures, dance, closing litany)

b. Anything else? Is there a place for silence? Is there a place for reflection? Will we remember to enjoy our prayerful time?

Appendix 3

Year Group: _____ Date: _____

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Focus	Comments
<p>Planning (discussed with teacher before or after celebration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the children been involved in the planning? • Has the Act of Worship been planned around a theme/feast? 	
<p>Structure (If Liturgy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the four parts (Gather, Word, Response, Mission) be distinctly identified? • How did children gather? • Was the Word appropriate and treated reverently? • How did children respond to the Word? • Was there a clear Mission, an evident message at the end of the liturgy? 	
<p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child or adult led? • Depending on the age of the children were they as involved as possible in leading? 	
<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children fully engaged and participating enthusiastically? • Was it a prayerful experience? 	
<p>Creativity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How creative was the Act of Worship? • Did it include different prayer styles/dance/music etc to enhance the experience? 	
<p>Prayer Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were children able to create focal point, atmosphere for prayer, appropriate for their age? 	
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were liturgical resources used appropriately eg correct liturgical colours, artefacts? 	
<p>ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was ICT used to support and enhance the Act of Worship or was it a distraction? 	
<p>Agreed areas for development</p>	

A copy of this monitoring sheet has been given to the class teacher

Coordinator ...

Class Teacher ...

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 head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to 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 head teacher 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 head teacher 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 in-service 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

Review: October 2015

To be reviewed annually

Chair of Governors: