Collective Worship Policy

Policy Reviewed: Dec 2013
Next Review Date: Dec 2015
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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.

Mission Statement

Our aim at St. Wilfrid’s is to work together as a faith community

Understanding the uniqueness of each person

Respecting differences

Helping each person discover and nurture their potential,

Offering a safe, stimulating and happy environment where children gain knowledge, skills and understanding which equip them for life long learning

Praising and celebrate effort and achievement

Ensuring fairness and justice for all

Involving parents and carers in the education of their child /children

Sharing our Catholic faith, through the person of Jesus Christ and

Inviting families, parish friends and the wider community to join us on our journey of self-discovery

Nurturing attitudes of consideration, tolerance, respect, co-operation and self-giving

Giving each the opportunity to develop spiritually, intellectually, creatively, emotionally, socially, morally and physically

Offering children help and support according to their needs, development and experience

Deepening our love of God and of others in a community of worship and prayer
1. INTRODUCTION

The governors and staff in St Wilfrid’s believe that Christian worship in our Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. We see collective acts of worship as our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship with Him. We recognise that this is made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Worship will be at the heart of our Catholic school. Times of collective worship will have a special status, they are separate from ordinary school activities (but they) enhancing and supporting all that we do in our school community.

The Governing Body acknowledges their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship and has taken into account the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1998, Education Act 1996 and the School’s Standard Framework 1998. But in our school worship is more than a legal requirement. It is an integral part of our school life and central to our Catholic tradition.

Assemblies and Collective Worship are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference should be made clear. The function of the liturgy is to build up members of Christ’s body, to strengthen us in preaching Christ.

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age”. Matthew 28:19-20.

Our Collective Worship Policy is founded upon the Mission Statement of our school. It addresses the needs and circumstances which are particular to St. Wilfrid's whilst maintaining the common objectives for Collective Worship. This Policy is closely linked with the school’s Religious Education Policy and both should be read in conjunction with each other. Other school policies of particular relevance to this policy include: Teaching and Learning, Inclusion and Disability, Equal Opportunities and Special Needs.

The staff and governors at St. Wilfrid’s are committed to self-monitoring and evaluation in the pursuit of improving the quality of provision thus ensuring maximum pupil achievement and the highest standards possible in all aspects of school management.

Next Review Date: Dec 2013
3. **AIMS**

Our Collective Worship Policy aims to ensure:

- Children’s experience of worship is based on sound educational, pastoral and liturgical principles
- Children are prepared for the liturgical life of the Church
- Staff take into account, as far as possible, the age, aptitudes and backgrounds of the children
- Children know and understand both prayer (“Prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him” (CCC 2560)) and liturgy (the formalising of worship at the heart of which is symbol and action)
- All staff are aware of the legal requirement that all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all pupils (Legislation) relating to Collective Worship (All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all pupils).

We consider collective worship and liturgical celebrations to be central to the Spiritual Development of both children and staff. The objectives of which are:

- To be able to recognise God’s presence in our work and lives
- To encourage a sense of wonder, awe and mystery
- To create the times and places to be still and have time for personal reflection
- To have the opportunity for considering the relevance of Christian beliefs
- To extend and understand the meaning of community and therefore the understanding of the Church
- To raise awareness of personal faith journeys as celebrated by the sacraments of the Church
- To explore the fact that we all have gifts and individual needs
- To recognise and understand that individuals can change things for better or worse
- To raise the awareness of hurt caused by injustice and aggression
- To enable pupils to explore their own feelings and express them in their lives
- To be able to understand and reflect on the physical world and God’s creation
- To explore ideas about the origin of the world and the universe
- To experience and value the environment

These aims and objectives will be achieved by:

- Making collective worship assemblies distinct activities
- Planning high quality acts of worship
- Involving, where possible, pupils in the planning and presentation
- Providing opportunities for voluntary worship/prayer
- Offering a range of experiences
- Creating a variety of settings
- Using a variety of pupil groupings
- Acknowledging ensuring that liturgies are inclusive and sensitive to all gathered
- Ensuring that Eucharistic celebrations in school highlight a special occasion
- Providing adequate resources for collective worship
- Addressing INSET needs for staff in this area
- Allocating sufficient funds each year to develop collective worship
- Ensuring a development plan for collective worship forms part of the SDP
- Having a prepared theme for acts of worship
- Ensuring our worship in school is guided by the principles stated in “The Directory for Masses with Children”
- Recording acts of worship
- Pupils will experience liturgy in a variety of ways and pupils will be encouraged to become actively involved in its preparation as well as through participation. Class liturgy will form an
element of our religious education lessons, particularly through the “Rejoice” section of the “Here I Am” programme.

In our school worship will be seen to enhance the religious education and the spiritual and moral development of the pupils. It is also viewed as an important vehicle for pupils to explore and share beliefs, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence, the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives, think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community. The school’s distinctive Catholic character of our school ensures that the central place of liturgy and worship is clearly evident to all.

4. THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated as a whole school. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to ‘Directory for Masses with Children’ as a basis for our practice. School Masses will include Introductory Rites in the Mass or The Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

The parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea invites the school community to lead parish Masses three times each year – Welcome Mass in September, Education Sunday and Year 6 Leaver’s Mass in July.

5. DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We ensure that the Church’s vision and mission are part of the life of our school by ensuring that the elements of good Liturgical Outline are incorporated into liturgies.

- WE GATHER
- WE LISTEN
- WE RESPOND
- WE GO FORTH

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<th>Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Wednesday*</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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*Four times a term this Collective Worship is replaced by Class Assemblies.

In addition to the above timetable there are:

- Individual Class Liturgies Autumn and Spring Terms
- Key Stage Liturgy Summer Term
- Holy Days: St. Wilfrid, St. George, Advent, Service of Light, Epiphany, Lenten Reconciliation, Holy Week Liturgies x 4, Easter, Mary in May, Corpus Christi,
- School Masses
  o The beginning of the school year
  o The New Year
  o Easter
  o Leaver’s Mass
6. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The **Governing Body** is responsible for ensuring that:
- the school fulfils the legal obligations in respect of Collective Worship

The **Headteacher** is responsible for ensuring that:
- setting high expectations relating to Acts of Worship:
- the aims and objectives for Collective Worship Policy are met within the school

The **Lead Learner for R.E** is responsible for:
- co-ordinating whole school acts of worship
- monitoring the planning, preparation of Collective Worship
- ensuring appropriate staff training
- updating staff as required
- supporting staff and in particular new members of staff other members of staff

**Class teachers** are responsible for
- familiarising themselves with Collective Worship rotas
- preparing themselves and the pupils in their care for their contribution in Acts of Collective Worship
- invite parents to termly Class Liturgy

7. **RESOURCES**

Each Class has its own Prayer Area, where drape colours reflect the liturgical year and the theme reflects that of the “Here I Am” unit. Resources to support Liturgies and Collective worship have been provided for each class. Liturgy boxes include:
- Coloured drapes which reflect the liturgical calendar of the Church
- Books
- Candles
- A selection of artefacts, crosses, praying hands, shell, pebbles etc.

Class teachers are asked to encourage the children in their classes to contribute to the Prayer displays also.

8. **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

A review of the school’s provision of worship will form part of the school’s annual self-review process. The policy will be monitored by the RE Co-ordinator will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff team and governors on a two year cycle. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a particularly important role in this process. See Appendix 1 for evaluation criteria.
APPENDIX 1.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION of COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN ST WILFRID’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The following criteria will be used as part of the evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluating School’s Provision of Worship</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Limited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality:</td>
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<td>Are the elements of good liturgy present?</td>
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<td>Provision:</td>
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<td>The school has held:</td>
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<td>School Masses</td>
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<td>Class Liturgies</td>
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<td>Voluntary worship – Prayer Room</td>
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<td>Daily prayer in classes</td>
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<td>Pupil Needs:</td>
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<td>Are all pupils included in worship</td>
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<td>Pupil Participation:</td>
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<td>Pupils are actively involved in the</td>
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<td>preparation, organisation and leading of</td>
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<td>worship</td>
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<td>Resources</td>
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<td>Good quality resources are available and</td>
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<td>used to enhance children’s experience of</td>
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<td>worship</td>
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<td>Parent Participation</td>
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<td>Liturgies and Masses are well attended by</td>
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<td>parents / carers</td>
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<td>Parents provide positive feedback on the</td>
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<td>range of liturgies available to their</td>
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<td>children</td>
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<td>Parish Involvement</td>
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<td>The Parish priest supports the</td>
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<td>development of worship in the school</td>
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<td>Parishioners attend school liturgies and</td>
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<td>Masses as appropriate</td>
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