



Cardinal Langley RC High School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
[Matthew 18:20]

Rationale

Collective worship as a whole school and in smaller groups is a visible sign of our identity as a Catholic Community. Through times of prayer and reflection we open ourselves to the Word of God, express our faith in a God who loves us, and educate about worship. For some students and staff, the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory. For those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, worship will be the natural outcome of belief and a place where their deepest thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion with God. What takes place in collective worship must take account of the varied backgrounds of the students and staff, as well as their ages and aptitudes, while allowing for a rich encounter with the God who loves us.

Purpose

Collective worship is an act of the whole community – students and staff – and not something simply provided for students. The purpose of this policy is to set out guidelines to ensure that the school is meeting its legal requirements but, more importantly, providing meaningful acts of worship in a variety of formats which both educate and allow for that space and reflection which all people need. Worship in school ought to:

- Promote a deeper awareness of God and relationship to him
- Celebrate the key moments in the life of the Church, individuals and the community
- Celebrate the gifts, talents and achievements of all
- Foster a sense of mystery, joy, awe and wonder
- Offer reflection on key Christian themes such as peace, forgiveness, responding to the needs of others, compassion
- Develop a sense of a community
- Promote the value of each individual in the sense of self worth
- Be catechetical in that it promotes a deeper understanding of the nature and vocabulary of worship

In our daily act of worship we uphold the Salford Diocese Framework for Review, Evaluation and Celebration through promoting:-

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| ▪ Welcome [come] | We come together in welcome. |
| ▪ Word [talk] | We talk together as a word of God's community. |
| ▪ Witness [work] | We look at our School mission statement and work together as a witness community. |
| ▪ Welfare [walk] | We walk together as a welfare community. |
| ▪ Worship [pray] | We pray together as a worship community. |

Guidelines:

A) Whole-school liturgies

1. Whole-school liturgies should offer a variety of liturgical experiences and will not always be eucharistic. The chaplaincy group will take the lead in preparing the liturgies and student involvement in the preparation and delivery is considered very important. All whole-school celebrations are student-led.

2. As the source and summit of Catholic sacramental life, the Eucharist is celebrated once each week at lunchtime with voluntary attendance. One form group at a time, on a rota basis, will take responsibility for leading the readings and prayers. Where a priest is unavailable to preside, there will be Liturgy of the Word service. During the season of Lent, the weekly, voluntary act of worship will normally be a reflection on the Stations of the Cross.
3. The school will come together in year or house groups to celebrate the major seasons of the Church's year with services at Christmas and as near to Easter as possible. The school will also celebrate Founder's Week during the Summer term as a recognition of the unique history and ethos of the school and will celebrate the feast of St John Baptiste de la Salle with a whole-school Mass.
4. Links are forged with local parishes and, when possible, major school celebrations should be shared with the local community e.g. Advent service.

B) Daily acts of worship

1. Unless absolutely unavoidable there will be a daily assembly rotated around all year groups and which is clearly and recognisably an act of Christian worship. The Pastoral Deputy will publish the assembly rota and suggested themes to be used for each term.
2. The involvement of students in the preparation and delivery of assemblies in every year group is expected. Every form group will lead an assembly during the year and all assemblies will incorporate a variety of media; including the spoken word, music, poetry, drama, ICT etc. to allow students to feel fully involved. Staff are expected to attend the assembly along with the year groups with which they are associated.
3. Once a term there will be an assembly for the house group and the house will also gather on the celebration day for that house. The leader of each house is responsible for the content of the assembly.
4. For those members of the school community not in the assembly there should be a collective act of worship during morning registration as a form or tutor group. Pastoral and academic leaders are responsible for supporting and monitoring this aspect of our school life.

C) Staff

1. Staff briefings, whether whole-school, year team or departmental should begin with an act of worship with all staff prepared to take the lead.
2. Each school year begins with a Mass for staff to welcome the start of the new academic year.
3. A proportion of development time each year should be reserved for spiritual development to enrich the prayer life of staff and provide resources and strategies so as they are confident in leading staff and student acts of worship.
4. The school aims to mark special occasions for staff, such as retirements, with a Mass to celebrate and give thanks for the contribution which has been made to the life of the school.

Policy Approval:

Signature of Headteacher:

Signature of Chair/Vice-Chair of
C&P Committee:



08.03.2016

Date



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Date