



Collective Worship Policy

Name and Job Title of Author:	Katie Flood Director of Chaplaincy
Approval Committee:	Full Boad delegated to catholic Life Committee
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ENCOUNTER ● LEARN ● GROW ● FLOURISH

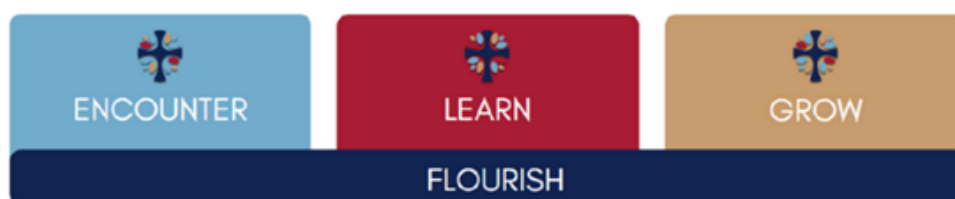
Table of changes

Version Number	Date of Version/Review	Detail changes
V. 1	28/11/25	

1. Trust Mission

At St Cuthbert's, our Mission is to:

- Give every member of the St Cuthbert's family the experiences to **encounter** Christ and know that they are loved by Him
- Provide excellent academic opportunities for **learning**
- **Grow** in the Christian virtues including Faith, Hope, Love and in the service of others
- Enable all to meet their full potential and **flourish**



2. The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in our Trust names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It gives 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.

It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

3. 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 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.

As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, acts of worship may be held elsewhere (e.g. church, other approved venue) on or for a special occasion. This is at the discretion of each school and their respective Local Governing bodies.

In our schools, responsibility for 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 need to 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.

4. The Place of Collective Worship in our Trust

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship considers 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.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in our Trust is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

We believe that Collective Worship in our Trust aims to provide the opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life

- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Although Collective Worship looks different in each of our schools, they each include elements from the three strands outlined in the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:

Celebration of the Word - Although not a prominent outside of Catholic Education, this type of prayer is invaluable to the pupil, and staff, formation, especially relating to the use of scripture.

- Opportunity for pupils to plan, resource and sometimes deliver (with assistance from staff where appropriate) - This varies depending on age group and level of faith formation.
- The theme of the Celebration of the Word is provided in the Trust Prayer and Liturgy plan

Prayer

- Personal prayer - individual opportunities for spontaneous prayer around our school sites.
- Creative prayer - allows for more creative, personal responses.
- Any prayer time with less structure (meditation, nature walks, silent prayer etc)

Liturgy - specifically Sacramental. This includes some, if not all, in each of our schools:

- Holy Mass - as a class, year group or, where possible, whole school
- Reconciliation
- Eucharistic Adoration - where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or where a Church is easily accessible

To ensure this, celebrations will:

- be provided in both small and large numbers. Small to provide an intimate experience of prayer where everyone can develop their personal relationship with God; and large to witness the glory of God's family here on earth - worshipping with others provides a sense of unity and cohesion.
- be a suitable length and appropriately paced for each age group/key stage and the needs of the class.

- include a range of experiences offered in different settings and delivered by different individuals, in order to provide holistic formation in prayer.

4. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Planning

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, the RED, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a Prayer and Liturgy Plan to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- through floor books, evidence files etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by the Trust to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in their personal faith formation.

Resources

- Each school is responsible for resourcing their Prayer and Liturgy plan
- Trust resources are provided on a half termly basis
- Further support is provided by the Chaplaincy team and their visits

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Each school has a designated Coordinator for Collective worship, the role of which is outlined in the appendices.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship for the school
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher 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
- Liaising with the Chaplaincy Team

Professional development/Ongoing Formation

- Leading and organising training and ongoing formation for delivering Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate courses and reporting back
- 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