



St Agatha's Catholic Primary School

Policy	Collective Worship Policy
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Statutory Policy	No

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Responsibility and oversight of Collective Worship

The governors and headteacher are responsible for ensuring that there are daily timetabled opportunities for whole school, year group and class Worship.

At St Agatha's School we ensure:

- that there is a named person who is responsible for organising Collective Worship across the school;
- that Collective Worship, in the form of prayer or liturgy, happens for all pupils daily;
- that all pupils are able to access the prayer and liturgy offered within the school day;
- that Collective Worship is well resourced, both in regard to content and the continued professional development of those planning and leading, this includes enabling pupils to plan and lead;
- that there is regular and comprehensive monitoring of Collective Worship which clearly demonstrates the impact on the school's Catholic mission;

Principles of Collective Worship

Acts of Worship in our School endeavour to:

- give praise and honour to God;
- give pupils meaningful opportunities to engage in the Sacramental Life of the Church;
- give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family context in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church;
- be of high quality, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- be examples of good practice, which should enable pupils and students to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead Worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

The ultimate aim of Collective Worship at St Agatha's School is to provide the space and tools for our pupils, within the context of the Catholic faith and traditions:

- to contemplate the mystery of God;
- to develop an understanding of Salvation History through meaningful engagement with the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation;
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- to foster and nurture relationships;
- to respond to and to celebrate life;
- to experience a sense of belonging and to develop community;
- to nurture a common ethos and shared set of values;

- to enrich religious experience;
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development;
- to reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition;
- to seek appropriate responses to the love of God;
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Whole School Masses

We celebrate school Mass with our school and parish community in St Agatha's church at the regular 9.30am service throughout the year on feast days and special occasions. Children from across the school carry out roles such as reading, altar serving, welcoming or carrying the offertory gifts. In this way we appreciate the contribution this faith community makes to the children's development of their own faith, practice and sense of reverence.

Year Group Masses

Years 2 - 6 lead a year-group Mass once a year at St Agatha's Church. Families and parishioners are warmly welcomed.

Prayer Services

Early Years and Year 1 children lead a prayer service once a year in their class. Their families and the parish priest are warmly welcomed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We recognise that many children do not get the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation very often, so during Advent and Lent Father Francis leads the children in a teaching assembly on Reconciliation and children who are eligible may celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with him or another of the priests of the parish who come to the school for this special event.

Rosary Club

Rosary club runs every Friday from 12.45-1pm. It is led by the Rosary Group team – they invite children into pray, set up the prayer space, lead the rosary prayers and finish with a procession across the playground to the prayer garden.

Prayer & Art Club

Once a month, prayer with an artistic focus is planned and led by a team of children. The theme is linked to an important feast or person in the Catholic Church. This takes place on the first Thursday of every month at 12.30pm. All children are welcome to attend.

Whole School Assemblies

A whole school assembly is held on a Monday morning. The Headteacher leads this assembly and uses TenTen as a key resource for teaching about the weekly Gospel.

GIFT Team Liturgies

The GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Team plan and lead whole school liturgies at various times throughout the year, for example on the feast days of Our Lady of Fatima and St Peter & St Paul. The GIFT Team comprises representatives from Years 1-6.

Class Acts of Worship

Each morning, every class has a moment of worship using the daily TenTen resource. Led by either the class teacher or children, children are encouraged to lead one another in prayer. Year 6 children lead younger year groups in prayer in order to model the four stages of Collective Worship. It is not to be confused with class prayers that are said daily. Lighting a candle, soft music, a focal point and comfortable seating helps all participants to benefit from the experience.

Class prayers are said daily at the following times: morning, before lunch and at the end of the day.

There is an opportunity of quiet reflection during this time and/or an opportunity for children to make a prayer of intercession (bidding prayer).

Prayer Tables

This is a special place in the classroom where children can privately go to talk to God in their own words or enjoy a period of silence when they can listen to the Spirit in their own hearts. This may be either individually or alongside others. It can be the focus for class acts of worship.

The prayer table should:

- Be inviting, clean and cared for.
- Be on the child's level where he/she can touch and feel the objects placed there.
- Should reflect the church year e.g. feasts or seasons or a topic currently being discussed in RE.
- Have cloths that reflect seasons of the church year.
- Display religious items/artefacts.

Sacramental Preparation

The preparation of children for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation is undertaken by parish catechists as part of a parish programme. This involves parents, catechists, children, parish priest and school working together as a community.