



*St. Bridget's Catholic Primary School*

*Mission Statement*

*As a family, we learn, support and care for one another in God's love.*

*We reach for the stars.*

*May your life in this world be a happy one.*

*Collective Worship Policy*

*Ratified by Governors of the Curriculum & SDP Committee*

*Date 2/02/2015*

<i>Reviewed date</i>						
<i>Amended date</i>						

## Introduction

- This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at St Bridget's Catholic Primary School.
- It has been developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff.
- It is reviewed by the whole school in consultation with the Governing Body
- This policy will be revised when the relevant time is reached within the SDP or address any needs that may arise.

## Rationale

Collective worship in St Bridget's Catholic School, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character and will have Christ at its heart. It will reflect the tradition of the Church and its belief in the Trinity.

## The Purpose of Collective Worship

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development

## Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

## Objectives of Collective Worship

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At St. Bridget's all assemblies/collective worship are based on the principles that they should be:

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Spiritual

and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They are seen as special times where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God and we hope that our acts of worship will be restive, friendly and prayerful, with participants gaining some positive feelings.

*"Worship is concerned with reference or veneration paid to a divine being or power".*

(Circular 1/94)

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just legal requirement, it is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of our school's overall provision for prayer and worship. The worship which takes place in school is 'COLLECTIVE WORSHIP'.

## Guidelines

These guidelines hopefully provide a clearer framework for the collective worship that takes place in our school.

### *Collective Worship - Where?*

As a rule acts of Collective Worship take place on the school premises. However, the Governing Bodies of Grant Maintained, Aided and Special Agreement Schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

(Section 56 of Circular 1/94 - Education Reform Act 1988 s.6(4) s.6(5) + (6) )

*CLASSROOMS* "Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them." (Mt. 18:20)

*SCHOOL HALL* "With gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God." (Col, 3:16)

*CHURCH* "Heaven and earth are full of your glory." (Ps. 150:1)

*IN THE OPEN* "Heaven and earth are full of your glory." (Roman Missal)

*AT MEETINGS* "Be guided by the Spirit" (Galations 5:16)

### Collective Worship - When?

The legislation does not require Collective Worship to take place at a specific time.

It need not occur at the beginning of the day but rather at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

It is important to note that *every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day.*

Monday whole school collective worship is led by all the teachers in turn and will follow the schools collective worship themes programme. Each session will include scripture, prayer and reflection and singing of a hymn. Friday collective worship and reward assembly is taken by the Headteacher or Assistant

Headteacher, where the whole school meet to celebrate children's achievements in and out of school. Parents are encouraged to attend.

### The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship.

The Education Reform Act does not define collective worship. At St. Bridget's we focus on someone or something promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all children.

### Principles of Assembly/Collective Worship

Assemblies should be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concern
- They should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- They should match the needs of pupils
- They should foster a sense of community

Assemblies/Acts of Collective Worship should be educational. They should:

- Be learning experiences
- Related to pupils own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

They should be spiritual:

- Time to be still and reflect
- A special time - conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- They should include a variety of words, music and images

- They should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

The format should offer:

- A focus point
- Time for reflection
- Communal prayers
- Private prayer
- Scriptural reference
- Music/dance/mime/singing

Children should be encouraged to participate in all areas of preparation and delivery and at Year 6 should be leading the Worship.

### Conclusion

The experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belongings are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Such values will be explored, celebrated and reflected upon in Collective Worship in a manner that complements the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos of the school.

Reviewed by: L Thomas

Date: December 2014