



St. Mary's Catholic High School

An 11 to 18 Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Collective Worship Policy 2010

Approved by Full Governing Body:

Signature:

Next Review Date:

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2010

'Collective Worship should be the occasion for exploring and affirming those matters of human worth which are at the heart of education and shared humanity.'

Sharing God's love, hope and dreams

Together working as a team

Making celebration essential

Always achieving our potential

Respecting our family community

Youth gathering in unity

Seeking a better future for all

"The mission statement provides the foundation for all schools and college policies and practices, and its principles should inform planning and target setting. It is in the daily life and work of the school or college that essential indicators for the achievement of its mission may be identified."

- "The distinctive nature of a Catholic school." Jim Gallagher

An introduction to the Philosophy of Collective Worship

1. RATIONALE

Collective worship is a legal requirement as laid down by the *Education Act 1988*, the *School Standards and Framework Act 1998* and *The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (England) Order 1999*. All pupils in attendance at a maintained school are to take part in a daily act of collective worship. It enhances and supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils.

The character of collective worship is enshrined in our school's Mission Statement, drawing upon the Gospel and the Catholic tradition. However, some acts of worship can reflect the stage of the faith journey that a number of us are currently experiencing.

2. PURPOSES

The daily act of collective worship should be a major contribution to the ethos of the school and to pupils' spiritual and moral development. To this effect collective worship aims to:

Contribute to our pupils' **spiritual development** by providing opportunities to:

- think about questions of value, purpose, meaning; and ideals and achievements which are of ultimate worth and lasting significance
- present prayer as a natural expression of the living relationship of the children of God with their loving Father, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit
- help our pupils be aware of Christ's presence among us and to realise the value and importance of turning to him with our needs
- Experience periods of stillness and reflection, and foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world.

- listen and reflect upon stories by people of different beliefs

Contribute to pupils' **moral development** by providing opportunities to:

- think about questions of right and wrong
- hear stories of people who have shown moral courage and goodness
- listen to stories and prayers which address moral issues

Contribute to our pupils' **social development** by providing opportunities which:

- explore our roles as members of a family, members of a church and members of a school community
- celebrate the triumphs and difficulties of our community
- celebrate religious festivals, the liturgical seasons, the great feasts and lives of the saints
- encourage consideration for others, a sense of responsibility and a sense of community
- recognise the achievement of sports teams, individual pupils, attendance and positive behaviour


Contribute to our pupils' **cultural development** by providing opportunities to:

- listen to stories and music from a wide range of cultural traditions
- positively celebrate the different cultures in the school and wider community

3. GUIDELINES on form time and assemblies

Collective Worship has been amended in September 2010 to ensure consistency from all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching. This is a direct result from a form time consultancy group, observations and a variety of learning walks. It has been agreed, in line with Diocesan guidelines, that;

- Collective worship (within **form time**)



must be a planned activity and its implementation should be monitored, evaluated and reviewed annually. This is for all Year groups.

The implementation of Collective Worship is as follows.

- *At the beginning of form time*, all pupils must stand behind their chairs and make the sign of the cross. They must remain standing and join in, with the form teacher, in saying the Hail Mary prayer. (This will be on a power point in the G Drive). Pupils will then be asked to sit down, and then the following reflection should take place.

Each morning should consist of one of the following on each day.

The pre-scribed days will be published in the school bulletin. And what is stated to happen on that day - must happen on that day

1. A reflection that is led by the form teacher - this could be a power point, reflection reading, poem or topical media interpretation. However this must be regularly changed in terms of the teacher approach.

2. A **reflection** that is led by a number of pupils in the form. The form teacher should have a rota for the form, and must ensure everyone gets an opportunity to take part. This should be planned for in advance by the pupils.

For the following morning reflection to work - the form teacher must bring in or use www.bbcnews.co.uk to find one 'recent' issue in the news connected to **moral/ethical behaviour**. With this, the following will happen in form time:

3. **At KS3** A **discussion** that is led by the **sixth formers** in the group, which is based on the current 'theme of the week'. This could be linked to the media. This should be planned in advance.

At KS4 A **discussion** that is led by the **form reps/and or the form teacher** where **necessary** in the group, which is based on the current 'theme of the week'. This could be linked to the media. This should be planned in advance.

4. A **special morning reflection** whereby the pupils are given the opportunity for **calmness** and **quiet time**. The form teacher should have a 'thought box' in which pupils are given time to write on slips of paper, **one positive thing that has happened during that week**, and **one thing they need to improve on/target for the following week**. It is **essential** in this reflection, the **form teacher prepares accordingly for the correct atmosphere** for this to take place. Music, etc.

A list of weekly themes for the academic year has been produced and will assist staff in the delivery of collective worship. These take into account pupils' interest as well the liturgical and national calendar. The weekly theme should always be followed and supported.

Morning form time information

- Each morning, a reflection should last for **no more than 10 minutes** (leaving 10 minutes for admin) and must start at the **beginning** of the form time following the **sign of the cross and the Hail Mary prayer**.
- It is of significant importance that ALL notices and the register **follow the reflection, and not before**.
- It is expected that ALL staff ensure Collective Worship takes place - in the event of a cover, there are a variety of reflections in the G drive folder that could be used. In this event, a reflection must still take place. The folder is in the G Drive -

Collective Worship 2010

Sixth form Morning form time and Collective Worship

As of September 2010, all students in Year 12 will attend form time **each morning**. Form teachers should follow the pre-scribed days for the morning reflections, as will be published in the bulletin.

- Please note that some of the pupils will be with other forms in KS3, and so the Collective Worship requirement will be met in the linked form at KS3.
- **It is essential all form teachers for Year 12 are consistent and follow this whole school Collective Worship policy.**

As of September 2010, all students in Year 13 will attend form time **ONCE a week. As well as one assembly**. Form teachers of Year 13 must ensure that this form period contains **Collective Worship** that must be planned by the form teacher.



- Collective worship (within **assembly**) must be a **planned activity** and led by the form teacher and / or their form group.

Assemblies **MUST** start with the sign of the cross and then the Hail Mary. This is for all year groups (7 - 13).

Festivals throughout the year celebrated in form time

During Advent and Lent, each form teacher will be supplied with daily reflections that must take place in form time.

During these weeks in the liturgical year, the form teacher can choose to use these **IN ADDITION TO** or in place of the normal planned collective worship.

They are self-explanatory and will be supplied in advance of the festivals.

The format of the assembly



All assemblies **must start with the sign of the cross.**

The **Collective Worship** should start following all the notices. (Notices should be kept to a minimum where possible) This will be led by a member of the Senior Management Team, by pastoral staff, by one of the Form Tutors and their form, or by another member of staff.

At 8.50am a bell will ring and the pupils move quickly to first lesson.

There will be occasions when the morning assembly may need to be extended in order to accommodate a special collective worship or the need to address the whole year group simultaneously on a matter of importance. This should only be done with the permission of the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. It should be emphasised that on these occasions collective worship remains the first priority.

Sharing resources

We do ask that all form teachers in Years 7 - 12, including Year 13 where possible, share resources as it is best practice. This will make the planning and delivering in form time by the form teachers, sixth formers, and form rep's easier. **All resources can be placed in the file on the G Drive - Collective Worship 2010.**

It is a compulsory element of Catholic education that all pupils take part, and are led in, Collective Worship. All of which must be planned as any teacher would for a lesson.