



**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Collective worship policy

Mission Statement

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

The mission of our school is to support and further the teachings of Christ and His Church.

We welcome and embrace individuals of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to enhance and celebrate their moral, physical, social and emotional development, so that they may reach their full potential in an atmosphere of stability, care and respect.

We believe that education is for all and in partnership with parents, carers, children and the wider Catholic community: we will strive and succeed in a wholly inclusive setting.

Date issued: June 2016

Date to be reviewed: June 2018

Written by: Mrs Claire Burns (RE co-ordinator)

Rationale:

At St. Augustine of Canterbury, collective worship is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of our school ethos and central to the Catholic life of the school.

We believe that collective Christian worship in St. Augustine of Canterbury celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving 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.

Aims:

Collective worship takes into account 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.

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide 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 develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles:

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church (*Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9*). In order to do this, celebrations will:
 - be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;

- be concise and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the children. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

Collective Worship and Prayer

At St. Augustine of Canterbury we aim to make collective worship meaningful to the children. They are encouraged to take an active part in most assemblies either by acting, singing, leading prayers, through liturgical dance or quiet reflection. Different forms of prayer are encouraged during class reflections and collective worship. Children regularly engage in spontaneous prayer, stilling, thanksgiving and guided meditations.

Assemblies and Hymn Practice

Collective worship takes place on a daily basis. On Monday and Friday we have a whole school assembly lead by the Head teacher. On Tuesday we have a whole school hymn practice. Wednesday is the infant assembly and Thursday is the junior assembly, lead by the class teachers. On the day when there is no assembly for infants and juniors, a reflection is held either in the class or the school Chapel. The Friday assembly alternates between a work sharing assembly for infants, juniors and a year group led assembly, all of which the parents are invited to join. On occasion, special visitors are invited in to lead assemblies - e.g. Cafod representatives, guest speakers relating to enrichment weeks etc.

Masses and Liturgies

Mass is an important part of our school community worship. The staff prepare the children for this occasion by encouraging them to lead the readings, hymns, bidding prayers and offertory. At St. Augustine of Canterbury we celebrate Holy Days, other major feast days, and the start/end of each school year. These are planned by the Head teacher, RE co-ordinator or class teachers, and given to the Parish Priest in advance of the Mass.

During the school year, additional masses and liturgies are celebrated on a cycle - the KS2 classes (Years 3-6) participate in a junior mass, with the Infant classes conducting a celebration liturgy in the Church delivered by the teacher and Parish Sister or Deacon. The class teachers prepare these Masses and liturgies which are linked to the RE programme.

We also have whole school liturgies; celebrating children's work at different times of the year e.g. Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross service etc.

Teachers conduct class liturgies and celebrations linked to each of the 'Come and See' topics during the rejoice section of Response.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of daily life in our school. Children are encouraged to pray in their own words and for their own intentions throughout the day. Each class has a religious focal area, relating to the 'Come and See' topic to be used for reflections and during the RE lesson.

Traditional Catholic prayers are taught in specific key stages in accordance with the 'Come and See' programme.

Children pray at certain times of the day: morning, before/after lunch and at the end of the day. KS1 and KS2 Prayer packs for NQT's or new teachers are available from the RE co-ordinator.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

The school Chapel is available for quiet reflection and prayer for both the pupils and parents. Mr Lynn (Foundation Governor, volunteer) leads a weekly prayer group during lunchtimes to help children develop their prayerfulness. Use of this reflective area is also actively encouraged during advent and Lent through our 'Pop in and Pray' scheme.

The school grounds provide the opportunity for spontaneous contemplation, meditation and prayer by the children with the use of the Holy garden. The Holy garden and the school chapel are also used regularly during RE lessons.

We also provide opportunities for groups of children to go on a spiritual retreat to Aylesford Priory, to strengthen their relationship with God.

Resources

Every class has a Holy table and focal display used for prayer times in RE, reflections and collective worship. These can include;

- a candle
- a cloth
- a cross or crucifix
- images
- relevant scripture relating to current liturgical season or Children's bible

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.