



## Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

*We walk kindly in the footsteps as we live and learn.*

### Collective Worship Policy

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Matthew 18:20

The principles underpinning the spiritual development of our children are based on the gospel values of justice, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. Children learn to encounter and appreciate the love of God in their everyday lives and in the world around them.

The life of the school is underpinned by the school’s Mission Statement:

**We walk kindly with each other in the footsteps of Jesus Christ as we live and learn.**

Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. It is the responsibility of every catholic school to provide for all its members a vital experience of Celebration of the Word, worship and prayer. It is an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

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

#### Aims

To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to:

- Give honour and praise to God
- Develop the school as a community of faith, developing a common ethos and shared values
- Encounter and develop their relationship with God, creation and the community of the Church
- Witness to the community and the wider world
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God
- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Grow in spirituality, liturgical understanding and development

#### The Nature of Collective Worship

Christian worship 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 encounter and enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

A daily act of worship for all pupils is a legal requirement. 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 school groups. Prayer and Celebration of the Word are words more commonly used in our context.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, however given the importance of Collective Worship, it may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. 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. Acts of worship may occur in and outside the school building e.g Memorial Garden, local woods or in our Church.

Collective Worship is well planned, adequately resourced, recorded, monitored and evaluated in order to ensure that the Collective Worship experienced within the school is a relevant, meaningful and makes a positive contribution to the religious, spiritual and moral development of all members of the community.

Collective Worship:

- Follows a structure ( Gather, The Word, Respond, Mission)
- Is linked to the Liturgical Year, Come and See or other significant event.
- Scripture is the key focus in most acts of worship. Scripture guides and shapes every other aspect of Celebration of the Word
- Develops pupils' skills which enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- Responds to changing situations within the school and the wider community

All Acts of Worship:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Are quality, valued moments of time, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church and their mission within it

Wherever possible Acts of worship are:

- Varied in size, space, location and prayer form to engage children in their faith in varying ways
- Short and appropriately paced
- Simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Class Celebration of the Word

Class Celebrations of the Word occur after each Come and See topic. As children move through the school, there is a clear, progressive shift in class-based Celebrations of the Word regarding adult support and child-led independence. Staff support to facilitate and lead certain parts gradually decreases. Celebrations of the Word are 'pupil powered' allowing children to be leaders of their faith and inspire others. Staff *facilitate* and *enable* rather than dictate.

The Class Celebration of the Word Progression Chart across school is as follows:

Child-led Celebration of the Word is pupil-powered where staff <i>facilitate</i> and <i>enable</i> rather than dictate.							
<i>Expectations for the end of the year...</i>							
	Planning the Celebration of the Word	Gathering the resources	Choosing the theme/Word	Deciding and arranging the display area	Leading parts of the Celebration of the Word	Transitioning from one part of the Celebration of the Word to another	Evaluating the Celebration of the Word
FS1 FS2	Adult Supported	Adult Supported	Adult Led	Adult Led initially, moving gradually to simple child led choices	Gather – Child Led The Word – Adult Led Response – Child Led Mission – Adult/Child Led	Adult Led	Adult Supported – Pupil Input
Year 1	Adult Supported	Adult Supported	Adult Supported	Child Led	Gather – Child Led The Word – Adult Led initially, gradually moving to Child Led by Summer (Y1); Child Led (Y2) Response - Adult/Child Led Mission – Child Led	Introducing each part – Adult Supported Leading each part – Child Led	Adult Supported – Pupil Input
Year 2	Adult Supported	Adult Supported	Adult Supported	Child Led			
Year 3	Child Led – Adult Overview	Child Led	Child Led	Child Led	All – Child Led	Child Led with initial adult support	Child Led with adult overview
Year 4	Child Led – Adult Overview	Child Led	Child Led	Child Led	All – Child Led	Child Led	Child Led with adult overview
Year 5	Child led – Independent						
Year 6	Child led – Independent						

## Eucharistic Celebrations

Eucharistic celebrations in school highlight a special occasion or reflect the season of the Liturgical year. These Masses provide a wonderful opportunity for school and parish to worship together. The staff and children prepare the music, prayers and readings for these celebrations.

Children are introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. Eucharistic adoration also takes place.

**At Foundation Stage** worship includes:

- Short, simple Celebrations of the Word with ritual and variety

**At Key Stage 1** worship includes:

- Short, simple Celebrations of the Word with ritual and variety
- Occasional Celebrations of the Word reflecting the Introductory rites in the Mass and/or The Celebration of the Word of the Word

**At Key Stage 2** worship includes:

- Short, simple Celebrations of the Word with ritual and variety
- Occasional Celebrations of the Word reflecting the Introductory Rites in the mass or The Celebration of the Word of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite.

The Trust Chaplains work closely with the children across the school in developing the children's role in leading worship. A comprehensive, collaborative calendar of events and activities is planned to ensure Chaplaincy support is maximised and has a positive impact. A well-established KS2 and KS1 Celebration of the Word team, lead and support Celebration of the Word for Key Stages guided by our Chaplains, teaching staff and the RE Co-ordinator. There is a real sense of pupil-powered and pupil-owned worship where the children drive the Celebration of the Word with Scripture at its heart.

The Deputy Head Teacher (R.E.) has responsibility for co-ordinating overall collective worship.

### **Focus**

The focus of class Celebrations of the Word are led by staff (see progression chart) or by the children. This may be linked to the come and See Topic, the Word of the Week, themes in the Churches year or current events occurring in their class/the world. For KS2 Celebration of the Word, a thematic plan is created with the input of the KS2 Celebration of the Word team, who make independent, informed decisions on Celebration of the Word foci through the year.

### **Recording**

Collective Worship is recorded in individual class and Key Stage Celebration of the Word folders. These are personalised by each class with a favourite/personal class scripture quote. The folders include NCDYS Celebration of the Word planners which keep a record of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources. Classroom displays, Prayer Journals and Pupil Books are also collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc. Every child will have the opportunity to plan a Celebration of the Word in their class.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Key Stage Celebrations of the Word are monitored and evaluated regularly by SLT, the children, parents and the Parish priest. Consideration as to whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship are taken into account, as well as pupil engagement, leadership, spiritual impact, behaviour and response.

All children have the opportunity to evaluate a class Celebration of the Word. All Key Stage and class Celebrations of the Word are evaluated. This takes the form of a discussion based on *celebration and growth* discussion. Areas for developments are actioned in order to continue to develop and enhance the quality of liturgical experiences.

Acts of Worship are frequently celebrated within the school and wider community through the use of display, the school blog, Twitter and Facebook.

### **Resources**

All classes have a range of resources. A variety of resources can be found in the Celebration of the Word cupboard in the hall and the newly created FS/KS1 Celebration of the Word trays. This is monitored and regularly reviewed by the RE Co-ordinator, Key Stage Celebration of the Word Teams and Class Faith Ambassadors.

## **CPD**

A CPD calendar regarding Collective Worship for children, staff and Governors organised each academic year in light of school evaluation outcomes. CPD is primarily led by the RE Co-ordinator whose responsibility it is to upskill and ensure children and staff are confident and knowledgeable in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. Trust Chaplains also support with this task. FS/KS1 and KS2 Celebration of the Word Teams also upskill and train younger children and Faith Ambassadors in each class. This child-led training occurs termly. Faith Ambassadors are empowered and trained to know the parts of a Celebration of the Word and display requirements and support the class and class teacher in providing the best possible experiences of collective worship in class. These children also monitor the quality and opportunity for prayer and reflection of classroom displays.

## **Policy Monitoring and Review**

This policy is evaluated and reviewed every two years.

Reviewed: Sept 2025.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulate a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensure that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensure that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensure that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organise themes for Worship
- Assists the governors and head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintains and develops effective procedures and documentation
- Observes Acts of Collective Worship
- Informs the Head Teacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

### **Communication**

- Communicates to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reports to and consults with the governors and Head Teacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acts as consultant to colleagues
- Encourages positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informs newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicates with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaises with the school chaplain
- Liaises with the Diocesan RE Centre

### **Professional Development / Ongoing Formation**

- Leads and organises in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attends appropriate in-service courses and reports back
- Keeps up to date by personal reading

### **Resources**

- Evaluates existing resources
- Develops the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Makes recommendations to SLT regarding visits/visitors/resourcing requirements