



St Iltyd's Catholic High School

Collective Worship Policy

July 2024

Role	Name(s)
Head of Centre	David B Thomas
SLT Lead	Paul Moriarty
Date adopted by Governing Body	12 th July 2024
Review date	July 2027

Mission Statement:

'Together in Christ, we make a difference'

The Nature of Collective Worship

At St Illtyd's we believe that Christian worship in our school 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.

As part of the outward signs of our Catholic school's ethos, regular liturgical celebrations and daily prayers are at the very heart of our school life.

Ethos matters and as a result Governors, staff and pupils came together to create a mission and vision statement for the school. (June 2022)

Our Mission is to be a Catholic School which promotes positive relationships founded on the Gospel values of respect, care, compassion and love. We firmly believe that each individual can discover, develop and achieve their full potential to take their place in our ever-changing world.

In order to do so we are: -

Committed to developing every learner's relationship with God

Committed to knowing every learner well

Committed to continuous learning for all

Committed to equity and excellence

Committed to a whole school approach to Wellbeing

Committed to a curriculum that enables all learners to be successful through knowledge, experience and skills.

Our core purpose is "together in Christ, we make a difference". This philosophy is at the heart of everything we aspire to do for each member of our community.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils.

'Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship'. (Section 70 of 1998 Act)

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 year groups.

Worship in our school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to our Catholic ethos and commitment to the evangelising mission of the Church.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time.

In St Illtyd's, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

In our school collective worship considers 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; and
- those from other faith backgrounds

It is a spiritual activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

The Aims of Collective Worship

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 moral issues and enrich religious experience
- 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 grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- 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;
- offer pupils positive liturgical experiences - appropriate to their age, ability and culture

The Planning, Content, Provision and Delivery of Collective Worship

Planning

Collective Worship is planned:

- Following a structure with reference to the liturgical year and significant dates. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship;
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- To develop in pupils the skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

Collective Worship is planned to take place during the morning registration / form time or year group assembly. Every pupil will have a period of Collective Worship everyday:

- In assembly - year group assemblies delivered by staff or form groups
- In form time – collective worship resources (produced by the School Chaplain) delivered by the form tutor and / or pupils

Content

Our acts of collective worship will involve **some** of the following features:

1. Gather
2. Sign of the Cross – in Welsh or English
3. Scripture reading – does, when appropriate, reflect on the Gospel reading of the previous Sunday
4. Music
5. Video clips
6. Practical activities
7. Response to any of the above (3 – 6)
8. Reflection
9. JPP virtues
10. Prayer

Provision

St Illtyd's Catholic High School has a full time Chaplain who is responsible for Collective Worship and the Catholic Life and Mission of St Illtyd's.

The school has a Chapel, meeting rooms and access to the Main Hall for worship.

Delivery

All acts of collective worship will involve an assortment of people including guest speakers, clergy, pupils (including feeder primary schools) and staff.

The Mass

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion / feast in the Church's Year where appropriate.

This 'encounter with Christ' will involve all pupils and will either be celebrated as a complete year group in the Main Hall or as a split Year Group in the Chapel. Where possible / practical pupils should take an active part in Mass. This include meeting and greeting, reading (Mass readings and Bidding Prayers), offertory procession and actively responding to the priest. (In words and actions)

In line with the 'Prayer and Liturgical Directory' pupils and staff who partake in liturgical ministries should be baptised.

The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, with opportunities for pupils to participate fully.

Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Voluntary acts of worship – either in the form of Mass or Liturgy of the Word will be offered during Advent and Lent in the Chapel.

Holy Days of Obligation throughout the Church's Liturgical cycle (in term time) are celebrated

Opportunities for spiritual retreats at school are provided at least once a year for pupils in Key Stage 3.

Opportunities for spiritual retreats at St Cassian's Centre are offered to pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

At least once a year the school's provision for collective worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator for collective worship is the School Chaplain who is line managed by the Deputy Headteacher for Catholic Ethos and Spirituality.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and link Governor and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years.