

## St Mark's RC Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### Rationale

Christian worship in a Catholic school is an integral part of our school life and our worship will be directed at responding to God as present in all aspects of life. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into relationship with him, made possible through the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

#### Purposes

- To provide opportunities to celebrate through liturgy, sacrament, ritual, symbol and prayer the liturgical season and special feasts.
- To celebrate in worship the common themes in curriculum Religious Education.
- To stimulate spiritual growth and to promote reflection on moral and social issues.
- To enable children to identify with the whole school or group and to experience being part of a worshipping community whether through active involvement in presentation or responding to the worship experience.
- To enable the school community to celebrate, to give thanks, to wonder, to acknowledge success, applaud achievement and to respond to loss and difficulties.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To incorporate the various cultures which are present in our school community and be sensitive to the perspective of those of other faith traditions.

- To fulfil the legal requirements of a daily act of worship for all pupils.

### Guidelines

1. All acts of worship will:
  - Give glory to God, honour and praise thanks
  - Reflect the Catholic nature of the school
  - Give children a positive liturgical experience
  - Take place in a variety of groupings and settings and at different times of the day
  - Be appropriately paced for the age and the experience of the children
  - Provide opportunities to listen, to reflect and to respond within an appropriate setting and atmosphere
2. Collective Worship is planned with reference to the Church's seasons, current Come and See topics, significant dates and events of importance to individuals in the community.
3. Pupils have the opportunity to develop skills in preparing, organising and leading worship.
4. Opportunities are provided for parents and the wider school and parish community to take part in Acts of worship.
5. Eucharistic celebrations take place in St Mark's Church at the beginning of each term and to mark feasts in the church year.
6. Over the course of the year opportunities are provided to meet for prayer at lunchtime or playtime as during Advent and Lent.
7. Collective worship in our school is planned, resourced monitored, recorded and evaluated in line with school policies.

8. Whenever possible training is given to provide staff with the experiences and strategies needed to lead children in worship.

#### Monitoring and Review

The RE Coordinator with the Head teacher and the Governors are responsible for the monitoring and reviewing of this policy in consultation with school staff.

#### Conclusion

We believe that all pupils are unique and that whatever their backgrounds or stage in their faith development, each one should have the opportunity through prayer to develop a personal relationship with God and thus to live out the Gospel in their daily lives.

This policy has been written with reference to Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship in order to ensure that all children will have an experience of worship that is life enhancing.

#### Review Sept 2018

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However given the importance of Collective Worship in a catholic school, parents and prospective parents need to be aware of the fact that it can never be confined to timetabled slots but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.