

Collective Worship Policy

St. Mary’s R.C. Primary School

Eccles

Manchester

M30 0FJ

Our Mission Statement

On our journey of faith with Jesus as our guide,

we share friendship, value learning and show respect for ourselves and others

as we live, learn, play, work and pray together

in our community.

“We Share, We Value, We Respect”

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Revised and adopted by Governing Board** | **Current Review** | **Next Review** |
| September 2023 | September 2023 | September 2024 |

*“On our journey of faith, with Jesus as our guide, we share friendship, value learning and show*

*respect for ourselves and others, as we live, learn, play, work and pray together in our community.”*

**What is Collective Worship?**

Within our worshipping community, St. Mary’s provides a Roman Catholic education which is a central part of the life of the school. Children are not only taught about their faith in lessons, prayers, liturgy and assemblies, but are encouraged to live and share their faith within the wider school community which permeates all areas of school life. 

At St Mary’s we believe that God is present and active in all authentic human experience. Worship is naming and celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. Creating a sacred space for worship is to create a space where the unity of God and creation is reverently symbolised and celebrated. Worship remembers and celebrates God’s presence in our lives and the marvellous ways in which He works in them and unites us more closely with them. Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God and is at the very heart of our school reflecting something special or separate from ordinary school activities. 

Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others may form part of an act of worship. All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.

**The Aims of Collective Worship**

In order to live the faith, opportunities for prayer, worship, liturgy and celebrations are central to the Catholic tradition and the life of the school. It is a vital part of our roles as educators in the faith to promote an appreciation of and active participation in prayer, worship, liturgy and celebrations. 

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunities 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 reflect on personal issues
* 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 fully engage in diocesan themed special focus years.
* To take time out ‘to wonder at,’ ‘to come to terms with’ and ‘to give worth to.’

We do this through:

* At least three times per week, classroom-based prayer and liturgy. Led by both pupils and staff.
* Weekly departmental assemblies
* Weekly whole school assemblies
* Weekly prayer & reflections group at lunchtime led by GIFT Chaplains
* Half-termly class Masses in school for Y1-Y6
* Half-termly Pray, Stay, Play for EYFS
* Regular whole school Masses in church to celebrate the beginning and end of terms, Feast Days and special occasions in the cycle of the school year
* Welcome parish Mass during the first autumn term
* Harvest celebration during the first autumn term.
* Advent celebrations during the second autumn term
* Advent Carol Service during Advent
* EYFS and KS1 Christmas Nativity plays
* Whole school Advent, Lenten and end-of-year reflections led by GIFT Chaplains
* EYFS Mother’s Day and Father’s Day celebrations during the spring and summer terms
* Holy Week and Easter celebrations during the spring term
* Crowning of Mary assembly
* Peace Prize assembly
* Hymn singing

**Parish Links**

The journey in faith experienced by the children involves the clergy, parents and parishioners who commit themselves to the spiritual development of our children. Among some of the opportunities provided are:

* The Sacraments of Initiation which are parish-based and supported by the school
* Children’s participation as readers, choristers, altar servers, etc at Masses
* Invitations are extended to parishioners to attend celebrations and Masses
* Clergy and parishioners are invited into school to speak about their role in the parish

**Wider Community**

Conscious that St. Mary’s is part of the wider community, we offer opportunities for the children to learn about and respond to the needs of the Worldwide Family. Throughout the year the children are involved in collecting money to help organisations such as CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development), Loves & Fishes, Wrap-Up, Rotary Shoe Box, MacMillan, British Legion who provide support and resources to people in need.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed in line with the established routines and procedures in school.

All teachers will be consulted about staff development in the subject. This may lead to discussion, awareness raising, training and amendments to practice and policy.