

ST. PETER'S R. C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Mission Statement

Through Jesus, we love, we learn and we grow together.

Our Values

We are defined by our mission and our Gospel values and virtues. These stand at the heart of everything we do. The values which inspire our work and inform the ethos and decision-making in our school are the values of the Gospel, based on the Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew (Chapter 5: 1-11). We want the children at St. Peter's to live good and fulfilling lives. It is with this mind-set that we use the Catholic Virtues explicitly as a vision and framework which forms the ethos of our school. These values and virtues are presented to the school community at assemblies and liturgies and are explored throughout the working week in the classroom. When we come to celebrate achievement in the school, we recognise first and foremost those who have witnessed to Gospel values and virtues, as well as recognising excellence in other areas.

Collective Worship

At St. Peter's, Collective Worship is through words and actions, the way by which we enter a spiritual relationship with God our Father, by following the actions of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the opportunity for all within our school community to give glory to God. Collective Worship is central to the life of the school for all pupils, whatever their own particular faith background, and forms the heart of every school celebration. Praying together is

part of the daily experience for all pupils and staff. Collective Worship has a clear purpose, message and direction. The themes chosen for worship reflect a deep understanding of the liturgical season and the Church's mission in education are universally cherished by every member of the community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

1. Whole school: On a Monday, children are introduced to a virtue which is linked to the Gospel reading for that Sunday. This ensures that all children and adults hear this important scripture. The children leave the liturgy with a clear sense of how this virtue can be explored and lived out in school over the week ahead. This may be led by any of the following; Head teacher, SLT, RE Leader, teaching or support staff, pupil chaplains, and or pupils. All staff are encouraged to lead and attend collective worship.
2. Class Prayer: Prayers are said at key intervals; morning, lunch, after lunch and at the end of the school day within each class. Class Worship is celebrated in classrooms on a Tuesday. This can be teacher or pupil led. This may take the form of liturgy, lectio divina, meditation, music, prayer etc. It is the opportunity for children to experience God in a new way, in the comfort of their classroom and with classmates.
3. Prayer and Praise: On a Wednesday, there is a celebration of song or prayer and praise liturgy. This will include a variety of music preparation for singing in Mass. Our children and staff wholly embrace the mantra 'to sing is to pray twice' (Saint Augustine).

4. **Virtue Worship:** On Thursday, our virtue liturgy, extends the children's knowledge and understanding of the virtue by sharing details of the life of someone who exemplifies those strengths. Another example of scripture will help the children make links between the examples and teaching of Jesus and their own lives and experiences.
5. **Celebration Assembly:** On Fridays we have a celebration assembly. Whilst this is not a Collective Worship, it is a time to emphasise St. Peter's mission statement, Gospel values and virtues when we celebrate the gifts given to us by God, and share these with each other. Clear reasons are given for why children have been chosen, again giving the children examples that they can relate to and understand.
6. **Mass:** At St. Peter's we are fortunate to have Mass said in school, led by the parish priest. This gives pupils the chance to further their catechesis in school, as well as celebrating the Eucharist; the centre of the Catholic faith. Currently Mass happens at least once in a six week term and on Holy days. All children are invited to attend Mass along with staff, parents/carers, family and other members of the parish community.
7. **Prayer Space:** A couple of times a year, usually Advent, Lent and Easter we set up a prayer space for the children and adults to use in small groups or classes. The space is a calm place, usually lit with candles and fairy lights with reflective music in the background. The space invites everyone to reflect and pray at these important times of the liturgical year.

Conclusion

Worship is not something separate from the rest of the school life. It reflects the way in which our pupils contribute and take responsibility for standards of behaviour, shared values, caring for each other, and quality of the school environment, and also affirms the worth of the individual. We aim that the children in our care begin to realise that God is a source of infinite love, and that He is active in the world and in our lives. To realise that, by praying together as a community, God's love is reflected in all of us and most importantly, our school life will provide the atmosphere and opportunity to promote dialogue with Him.

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