

## Sacred Heart RC Primary School Collective Worship Policy



### *“Christ Be Our Light”*

Sacred Heart is a Gospel based, Catholic school community, where it is believed that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centred curriculum, which develops independent learning. All are encouraged to look for and find God’s joy, justice and peace.

#### **Aims:**

- To love learning and thirst for knowledge
- To grow in Christian love through the teachings of the scriptures
- To acknowledge and respect difference
- To love and feel loved
- To respect our environment
- To forgive and be forgiven

#### **Introduction:**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic 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.

#### **Legal Requirements:**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. In this school, 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: We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account 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
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain
- We will continue to foster and deepen the children’s personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer.

We do this by helping them become aware of God’s Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer
- Praying through art or music stimuli

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, lunchtimes and in the evening. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition. It is our very heart beat.

## **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 spiritual and moral issues
- 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 enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make 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
- 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.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Daily (Outside the prayers of the Church)
- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience
- Be short and appropriately paced
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Be also planned and delivered by groups of children

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

- Monday –Statement to live by assembly
- Tuesday- Headteacher
- Wednesday – Child led assembly.
- Thursday-classroom based liturgy (am) Celebration Assembly- celebrating good work and gifts Awards and House points
- Friday - classroom based

## **Planning:**

- Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum.
- Scripture will be the focus for some acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and mission
- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship

## **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The RE Curriculum Leader and Head teacher will monitor classroom based worship each term. Staff will feedback on the effectiveness and relevance of the acts of worship observed.

## **Resources:**

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are available in school. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning. A number of visual and auditory resources can be found in the staff shared area of the school network. Staff are encouraged to use the “Statements to Live by” and the “Come and See” topic collective worships.

## **Eucharist:**

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- The whole school will also take part in Masses at the Parish Church during the school year.
- Children will be encouraged to participate in school-lead Sunday Masses throughout the year
- Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3. Special Sunday Masses will be arranged for these children to participate in.

## **Reconciliation:**

As a Catholic school we firmly believe in both seeking and granting forgiveness and restoration of broken friendships. Opportunities for children and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

## **Marian Devotion:**

There are many opportunities to honour Mary the Mother of God throughout the year. Mainly through the travelling Rosary during October and May in school

## **Staff Prayer:**

Staff are encouraged to develop their own relationship with God and Spirituality.

## **Developing Prayer in the Home:**

Children are encouraged to pray at home with their families during key moments in the liturgical year. Each child takes home “The travelling Crib” during Advent, “The travelling Cross” during Lent and “the travelling Rosary” during May. Each pack consists of a prayer journal, a candle, a crib set and a cross, or a rosary.