

Sacred Heart School



A Catholic Voluntary
Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Updated and reviewed May 2024 by Local Academy Committee

Sacred Heart School was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Hallam.

School motto

Love one another as I have loved you
(John 13:34)

Ethos

At Sacred Heart School we place Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of our lives by integrating Gospel values into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life.

Vision

As a Christian community, the vision of Sacred Heart School is:

- To empower all children to recognise and fulfil their unique potential
- To celebrate all God's children as individuals, respecting and valuing difference.
- To prepare the children to embrace and contribute positively to our ever-changing world.

Promise

- With God's guidance we promise to
- Create a supportive, nurturing environment in which every child is encouraged to explore their potential, to express their individuality and to develop confidence without fear of failure.
- Commit to the continuous professional development of all staff. To ensure our best understanding of each child's needs.
- Deliver a curriculum that is engaging, challenging and fosters independence.
- Lead by example, demonstrating the values of the Catholic Church and respect for all; preparing children for their journey through life.
- Build cooperative relationships with families and the wider community.

Our Strategic Priorities

Organise:

Educational opportunities effectively to create a positive culture for learning.

Plan:

Future goals with a Christian vision which allows everyone to reach their full potential.

Collaborate:

With the school, parish and wider community to share, learn and support.

Nurture:

A Christian community where all share unconditional opportunities for learning and are encouraged to develop wholeness.

Equality Act 2010

In accordance with *The Equality Act 2010*, each person in our school will be given fair and equal opportunities, with positive regard to gender, ethnicity, cultural and religious background, sexuality or disability.

The Nature of Collective Worship.

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. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, responsibility for making sure that statutory requirements are met concerning Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Sacred Heart 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.

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.

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 which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes

- To participate fully
- 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
- 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. celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Worship, Liturgy and Celebration of the Word will take the form of –

- Prayers at the beginning and end of each day, and before meals.
- Daily classroom prayers reflecting on the teachings of the Sunday mass readings. Led by teacher and prayer leaders.
- Weekly class celebration of the Word planned by the children.
- Come and See celebration at the end of each topic
- Friday prayers led by the Chaplaincy Team
- Whole school celebration of the Word every Monday and at other times as appropriate. These are rooted in the Sunday mass readings. This celebration may also reflect on the virtue for that week using resources from the Virtues to Live By website.
- Class reflection of the week's virtue
- Whole school/class celebration of the Word and Masses throughout the year
- During October and May specific reference to praying the Rosary
- Specific reflections during Advent and Lent and times for quiet reflection for each Key Stage
- Jesse Tree readings during Advent, Lenten reflection bible stories during Lent
- Children's meditation
- Liturgical dance

The Planning, Content and Celebration of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, 'Come and See', TenTen resources to support collective worship assemblies and classroom prayers, significant dates and feast days and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop, in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- All staff and governor meetings start with prayer and reflection.

The timetable of Collective Worship is as below.

Mon – Gospel (TenTen) collective worship – whole school

Tues - Class collective worship (TenTen) reflecting on the teachings of the Sunday mass readings plus reflection on the virtue to live by in class.

Wed - Class collective worship (TenTen) reflecting on the teachings of the Sunday mass readings.

Thurs - Class Collective worship (4-part child led liturgy)

Fri - Class collective worship (TenTen) reflecting on the teachings of the Sunday mass readings and celebration collective worship – whole school.

Leading Collective Worship

As faith leader of the school, the head teacher will plan and lead collective worship rooted in the Gospel and the virtues. The celebration of the Word whole school collective worship is led by the head teacher. The class teacher along with prayer leaders will lead class collective worship. Children are taught to plan and lead worship, once weekly, according to their age using a 4-part child led liturgy structure. Friday prayers are led by the Chaplaincy Team.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded on the termly and annual liturgical prayer planners and through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos and scrapbooks

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is monitored using Collective Worship monitoring form, pupil collective worship monitoring and pupil voice. Pupil participation is monitored termly as part of subject leader monitoring. As required, collective worship is a focus for LAC learning walks. Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the CSED.

Resources

Each location for collective worship (class or whole school) has a prayer focus area which matches the season of the liturgical year and always has a cross / crucifix and bible as well as other resources and prompts. Each class has resources accessible to children for their own delivery of collective worship. Resources are stored centrally and are accessible to staff and children (with supervision).

The learning environment

'Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith, when displayed in school and throughout its premises, will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment'

Focal points in each classroom and throughout the school will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos.

Other opportunities

Children attend Parish Mass around 6 times a year and the Parish Priest is a familiar visitor to school. Children have the opportunity to participate in child led rosary, Advent and Lent prayer sessions. Each year, each child is involved in presenting the Nativity, and Key Stage 2 present the Stations of the Cross. We hold a celebration called Easter Rocks! Families participate in worship through the travelling Advent and Lent bags. We celebrate May as the month of Mary and hold a celebration on the feast day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Children and families can make prayer requests– these are shared in collective worship and on the newsletter.

Voluntary Worship

- Friday prayers
- KS1 and KS2 weekly lunchtime prayers during Lent and Advent
- Adoration of the Eucharist during Lent

Sacramental Preparation

Preparing children to receive a sacrament is the role of the parish in accompanying families in their journey of faith. The parish community must continue to be the pre-eminent place for catechesis. The school supports sacramental preparation by attending services and masses, sharing receiving of the sacraments in collective worship, hosting a first communion celebration, praying for those receiving sacraments, and creating a prayer focal point for these children.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with all children. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. Eucharistic celebrations are planned together with the Parish Priest.

Parental Involvement

Parents are involved in many aspects of catholic life and collective worship at Sacred Heart. They are invited to Eucharistic celebrations, collective worship during Lent and Advent, collective worship for Easter and Mary and other themed collective worship such as remembrance liturgical prayer. Parents are invited to share in carols, RE presentations and Stations of the Cross. Families are involved in prayer through the Advent and Lent bags. They are encouraged to make prayer requests for the newsletter. Parents receive newsletters on collective worship and RE teaching. The weekly newsletter includes a gospel reflection.

The coordinator for Collective Worship

Maryann Todd, as RE lead teacher, also has responsibility for collective worship in conjunction with the head teacher –see appendix 1.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and LAC every year. The Foundation members in particular will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

The Role of the Coordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship included in the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and faith backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it and is rooted in the principles of the 'Directory for Masses with Children'
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship including withdrawal from collective worship

- Developing staff confidence and expertise e.g. through modelling different prayer styles

Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing Acts of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain
- Liaison with the Diocesan Department for Education

Professional development/Ongoing formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses, reporting back and leading staff training
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently