



## Collective Worship Policy

I am a  
child  
of God  
1 John 3:1

### St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

## **“St Gerard’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”**

At St Gerard’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School we believe that Christian worship in a Catholic School is concerned with giving glory, honour, and praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response in word and action to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship with God made possible through the work of Jesus and witness of the Holy Spirit. The school affirms that all children and staff are unique and should have opportunities to achieve their full potential to learn or to teach and to experience success in a broad, varied and balanced curriculum. The school aims to value all members of the school community including staff, children, parents, governors, parishioners and visitors.

### **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into a loving relationship with God. This is made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

At St Gerard’s, Collective Worship is an integral part of the school life. It gives children the opportunity to ‘Live the Faith’. We gather as a community to listen to the teachings of the Faith, pray and reflect on our own lives.

The daily acts of Collective Worship at St Gerard’s follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Aims and Objectives**

- To reflect on the mystery of God.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To respond to and celebrate life.
- To explore their own beliefs.
- To experience a sense of community and belonging where a common ethos and set of values and attitudes are developed and shared.
- To develop children’s sense of awe and wonder about the world that they live in.
- To celebrate the glory of God and have the opportunity to reflect on questions of meaning and worth.
- To grow in a liturgical understanding of the Catholic Faith.

## **Adapting Styles**

- Stimulating and engaging methods are used so that all can fully participate and take ownership.
- The children are grouped in classes, Key Stages and as a whole school. Their religious experience and background vary considerably.
- Whole school settings allow the children to gather as a loving and learning community and to celebrate the life of the school.
- Smaller size settings help children develop an age-appropriate liturgical understanding of the life of the Church.
- Collective worship should be appropriately paced and inclusive of all children's experiences.
- Children are encouraged to be Responsible, Resourceful, and Reflective and to show Reciprocity.
- Collective Worships have a visual focus which leaders will use to create an atmosphere appropriate for worship. Children know how special and important Collective Worship is and as such are very well behaved.
- Use of music and singing, individual and collective prayer, opportunities for stillness, silence, reflection and reverence are also included.

## **Planning and Monitoring**

### **Planning**

- Teachers use the Collective Worship planner which has been recommended by the Archdiocese to plan class and key stage Collective Worship.
- Learning Intentions relate to the children's own lives in the school and wider community.
- Learning Intentions focus on Christian values and the ethos of school.
- Collective Worship follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See and significant dates within the school year.
- There is a KS2 Gospel assembly each Tuesday.
- Class teachers lead daily Collective Worship and Key Stages Collective Worship.
- In every Collective Worship, pupil participation and ownership is encouraged and children are encouraged to be involved in the planning more so in KS2.
- Staff and Governors are always given time to reflect and staff take part in staff liturgies to reflect and revitalise their own faith.

## **Monitoring**

- Collective Worship observations
- Monitoring of planning
- Photographic evidence
- Pupil Voice
- Collective Worship evaluation by the Coordinator

## **Assessment**

- For class Collective Worship, opportunities for evaluation and next steps are planned and identified.
- There are lots of cross-curricular opportunities including English (stories), ICT (PowerPoint Presentations), Art, Music, Drama and PSHE.

## **Resources**

- Staff use a range of resources to ensure that they create a suitable focus table to deliver meaningful Collective Worship.
- Artefacts, candles, cloths and statues are stores in the resource cupboard in the school hall.
- Each class has copies of God's Story and Church's Story books. There are also more copies located within the resource cupboard.
- We also use a range of CAFOD resources.

## **Recording**

- Each class has a Collective Worship planning folder. Within this folder, weekly and daily planning is recorded. Pictures of focus tables and resources are also kept within the file.
- Collective Worship is also recorded through displays, incorporating a collection of pupil's contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs etc.
- Some Collective Worship may be recorded through PowerPoint presentations.

## **Purpose and Content of Assemblies**

- Whole school assemblies take place each Friday. This is usually a praise assembly. Some weeks, the assembly will be led by a class and follow a theme.
- Opportunities are provided for pupils and staff to gather together in reflection on the Word of God through Scripture and to respond in communal prayer and praise.

- We encourage staff and pupils to contribute their appropriate skills, gifts, and experience in a spirit of offering and sharing.
- We use flexible patterns of presentation by staff and / or pupils; the use of drama, music and visual arts is as important as the spoken word.
- We explore the beliefs of our Christian tradition and other world religions. We welcome visitors to share their experience and expertise.

### **Classroom Worship**

- It is our policy for classes to pray together at the start of each day, at lunch time and at end of the day. Each class has its own set of prayers and uses them regularly.
- Teachers are encouraged to employ a variety of styles of prayer in their classrooms. Progressively, pupils will be helped towards experiencing short periods of meditation / reflection.
- Each class will rejoice and celebrate the various topics studied from the RE programme 'Come and See' in order to enable the children to develop the capacities and skills to grow in the awareness of the spiritual dimension of life and actively respond to it.
- We feel it is important to provide focal points of prayer both in the classrooms and around the school. This includes artefacts, pictures and displays connected with the RE curriculum.

### **Liturgy**

- We have masses in school at special occasions and often invite parents and Governors in to share these with us.
- The Parishioners and Governors are involved with preparing children who are receiving the gifts of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Reconciliation.
- We aim to provide opportunities for non-sacramental liturgies led by teachers and children.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- At least once a year, the school's provision of worship is evaluated and monitored by the RE Coordinator and the Headteacher. This is shared with the Governor responsible for RE and together, it is considered whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are encouraged in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

### **Policy Updated**

Date: September 2021

By: Miss L. Sanders (RE Coordinator)