



St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

South Road, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB11 3DW

Email: admin@stmsw.co.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs. M.J. Hall M.Phil

Telephone: 01799 523248

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT



WE are a Catholic School and all our teaching reflects our Christian faith.

WE recognise the needs and value the contribution of each member of our school community.

WE encourage children to grow spiritually, socially and academically and to show respect for each other and the world in which we live.

WE seek to provide a high standard of education within a caring, family environment.

WE aim to develop good habits of work within a disciplined atmosphere.

WE welcome the active involvement of parents, Governors and friends in the daily life of the school.

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 a 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.

In this school responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

However 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 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.

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.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation

Monday - Whole school worship through music led by Headteacher and Music Teacher

Tuesday - Whole school worship usually led by Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher

Friday - Whole school worship and celebration of achievements led by Headteacher or Class Teacher.

Wednesday and Thursday - Class Worship led by Class Teacher.

Collective Worship 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 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. House Captains plan and lead liturgy in House Collective Worship. Pupils lead prayer services during class liturgy.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On planning sheet
- Through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- Exercise Books

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Available in Staffroom Library or from Headteacher.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will usually be celebrated with the whole school. 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.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Headteacher is the co-ordinator for collective worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Religious Education Team and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

September 2020

Review January 2022