

"Working, Praying, Sharing and Learning Together"  
"Gweithio, Gweddiwn, Rhannu a Ddysgu gyda'n Gilydd"



# St Mary's R.C. Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

February 2016

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

**Mark 18:20**



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

At St. Mary’s we work, pray, share and learn together in a caring environment, in partnership with the parents and parish to ensure that each child develops academically, spiritually, morally, physically and socially. Children are valued as individuals and encouraged to strive for self-improvement whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of others.

### **Collective Worship**

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

At St. Mary’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 worship at St. Mary’s follow the requirements of the 1998 Education Reform Act.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- 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 they live in
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes

### **Principles of Collective Worship**

- Stimulating and engaging methods are used so that all can participate fully and give glory and honour to God.
- The children may be grouped in small groups, classes, key stages or as a whole school.



- The whole school setting allows the children to gather as a loving and learning community and to celebrate the life of the school.
- Smaller groups allow for more personalised reflection.
- Collective worship should be appropriately paced and inclusive of all children’s experiences.
- Children are encouraged to be responsible, resourceful and reflective.
- Collective worship has a visual focus, which is used to create an appropriate atmosphere. Children know how special and important it is and as such are well behaved and respectful.
- Each class is led by a person carrying a candle which is then placed on the focus area. Spiritual music or videos are played as they enter the hall.
- Music, singing, individual and collective prayers are used. Opportunities for stillness, silence, reflection, empathy and reverence are included.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

- Each collective worship will include music, videos, readings from the scriptures or stories relating to moral issues and prayers.
- Collective Worship will follow a structure related to the Church’s seasons, “Come and See”, significant dates within the school year and SEAL.
- Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two collective worships on a Monday will be led by the headteacher and will take place in the morning and reflect the Sunday Liturgy. There will also be a small focus in each assembly on the current SEAL topic to remind pupils what their focus is for the half term.
- Foundation Phase collective worship taken by the Foundation Phase leader occurs on a Tuesday, it is based on the current ‘Come & See’ topic.
- Key Stage 2 collective worship led by RE Subject Leader will take place fortnightly on a Wednesday and follow a “What makes Mass Special” theme.
- The Welsh Coordinator will lead a ‘Wicked Welsh Worship’ on a fortnightly basis, on a Wednesday Morning, to focus on Curriculum Cymreig. Pupils will be taught Welsh hymns and prayers through these assemblies to lead up to one special liturgy which parents will be invited to.
- On Thursday, KS2 hold a “Come & See” themed assembly.
- Each Friday afternoon Celebration Assemblies are held in the school hall. These are led by the Foundation Phase Leader and Deputy Headteacher.
- Mass is celebrated by Fr Hennessy in the Church on a Friday morning on a fortnightly basis. This is attended by children from Nursery to Year 6 and is also supported by both parishioners and parents.
- Daily class worship takes place when the children are not in the hall for whole school or key stage worship. During these sessions, pupils help plan their own worships using our Gweddiwn boards and in older classes pupils lead the whole worship.
- Collective Worship follows the Liturgical year and incorporates current themes and issues addressed through the ‘Come & See’ programme.



- Stations of the cross are undertaken during Lent and Key Stage 2 pupils lead a Tenebrae service to mark the start of Holy Week.
- The school will hold an annual May procession.

### **The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship**

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship.
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils and takes account of the religious and educational needs of all those who share in it.
- Assisting the governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.

### **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating**

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation.
- Observing, monitoring and evaluating standards.
- Addressing issues of underachievement.

### **Communication**

- Communicating and engaging members of the school community and emphasising the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship.
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and the Parish Priest.
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship.
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship.
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community through newsletters from the school and Parish.
- Liaison with the Diocesan Director for RE.

### **Professional development / On-going formation**

- Organising and attending appropriate in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship.
- Keeping up to date by personal reading.
- Promoting all staff development including obtaining the CCRS for professional development.

### **Resources**

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



## Cross Curricular Links

Collective Worship could have a focus from topics covered in class which relate to spiritual and moral issues e.g. Year 6 have the chance to reflect on how they feel about war during November.

## Resources

- Artefacts, books and IT resources are kept in the classes and R.E. book case.
- Resources for Mass are kept with the RE coordinator. Cassocks for altar servers are kept in the sacristy.
- SEAL resources are kept with the PSE coordinator or in class.
- Cloths for the focus area are kept in individual classes.
- Music is stored in Yr6, R.E. book case and stored on the school server.
- ICT resources are stored in the classes and the computers/ipads are in the charging cabinets.

<b>Headteacher:</b>	<i>Tim Baxter</i>	<b>Date:</b>	29/2/16
<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>	<i>Tim Pritchard</i>	<b>Date:</b>	29/2/16