



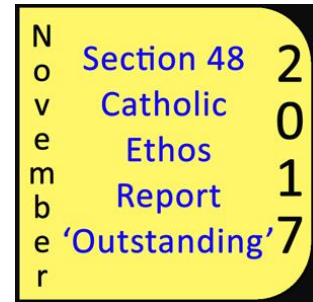
# Saint John Wall Catholic School

## A Catholic School For All



### Mission Statement

*'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'*



# Collective Worship Policy

"Go, worship the Lord. Even your families may go with you.."  
Exodus 10:24



## **INTRODUCTION**

An intrinsic part of the school day is collective worship. It is the outward expression of our inward journey towards our full relationship with God.

Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils and staff to explore their own spirituality and contributes to our school's statutory obligation to provide opportunities for the school communities spiritual and moral development.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENT**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship in school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfill 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 and will not be considered as part of the RE lesson.

The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head of School.

## **THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We believe that collective worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate the mystery of God.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore own belief.
- To respond to what God calls them to be (Vocation).
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To develop a common ethos of shared values.
- To develop the skills of reverence, contemplation, reflection interpretation empathy, mediation.
- To enrich religious experience.
- To reinforce positive attitude and enable positive mental health.

## **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 is an educational activity of experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Examples of collective worship:

- Regular assemblies.
- Year masses.
- Prayer in the Chapel.
- Welcome mass for Year 7.
- Whole school mass at start of every term.
- Service at end of term.
- Daily reflections in form.
- Circle Time.
- Reconciliation Services.
- Form/House Led Collective Worship.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

All acts of worship should:

- Give glory and praise to God.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school character.
- Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery.
- Provide an opportunity for reflection and spiritual development.

The following are prepared and reviewed by the Chaplain and SLT:

- Prayer books for each form tutor.
- Powerpoint of daily prayers.
- Prayer booklets for pupils.
- Liturgical calendar including rotas for Collective Worship, form prayers, year masses, house masses and beginning and end of term mass or service.
- Collective Worship proforma, including a mental health and careers/vocations tip.
- Support from Head of Catholic Life for preparing assemblies.
- Appropriate poster, artifacts, candles to create a focal part for worship in each tutor room.
- Induction for new teachers and trainee teachers on the distinctive nature of Catholic Schools, spiritual development across the curriculum, and tutor responsibilities with regard to the daily act of worship.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

At least once a year the schools 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.

*Ratified by Governors: 15/10/2018*

*Review Date: 15/10/2021*

*(This policy will remain in force beyond the review date if no updates are required)*