



**St Cuthbert's  
Catholic High School**  
*Live life in all its fullness*

# Collective Worship Policy

## 2020 - 2023

<b>Person responsible for Policy:</b>	Curriculum Leader RE /Senior Leadership Team
<b>Committee responsible for Policy:</b>	Curriculum & Outcomes
<b>Date To Governors:</b>	November 2020
<b>Date Agreed:</b>	September 2020
<b>Review Due:</b>	September 2023 and every three years thereafter
<b>Is this Policy to appear on school website:</b>	Yes

# Collective Worship Policy

## Rationale

**"The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first, our own step is always a response"**

**(The Catechism of the Catholic Church)**

A daily act of worship is not merely a statutory requirement but in St Cuthbert's Catholic School it is an integral element of the spiritual and prayer life of the community. Students are not **"looking for text-book prayer, nor sentimentality, but for genuine conviction and evidence of someone else embarked on a spiritual journey and able to some extent, to articulate it"**.

(Where Two or Three are Gathered in my name, Cope et al).

Worship and prayer lie at the heart of the Christian life. It is a living and personal relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit. Within St Cuthbert's we root our prayer in the desire to live and teach in the light of the gospel.

## Legal Requirements

The legal requirements for collective worship are laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act and in the Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (1993 – 1994), which was essentially an attempt to explain and enhance the 1988 Act. It states that collective worship: **'Should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes'**. It also states these acts of worship must be **"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character"** for the majority of the time. They must also be **"appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

Also, the requirement to promote **British values** as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

## Aims

***Collective Worship within St Cuthbert's offers opportunities to:***

- ✚ consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- ✚ offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- ✚ experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- ✚ encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community

- ✚ foster a sense of joy awe and wonder in all creation
- ✚ affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- ✚ develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- ✚ explore social, moral and spiritual values in a cultural context
- ✚ support students and staff on their personal spiritual and religious journey
- ✚ promote and encourage British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty to reflect life in modern Britain.

## Principles

Acts of Collective Worship should be:

- ✓ related to the age, ability and background of students
- ✓ designed to actively engage students, and elicit a response
- ✓ resourced and planned
- ✓ memorable and enjoyable
- ✓ an educational activity
- ✓ a sense of occasion
- ✓ flexible and able to respond to special occasions

## Co-ordination

At present, the R.E. Department co-ordinate the Collective Worship Programme, establishing a pattern of themes for each week of the school year and creating a Rota for the delivery of assemblies. The weekly resources are produced by the RE department; these are digital resources with a wealth of material for staff and students to use. The Subject Specific Review recognises the desire to include others in the Collective Worship Team, both students and staff.

## Organisation

**Assembly** - Each day of the week one Year group has a full assembly in the Drama Theatre. In each of these assemblies the act of worship is led by a member of staff, chaplain or visiting speakers. The business elements of assembly are led by the Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year in order to make a clear distinction between the worship and practical aspects of the assembly. There are no business announcements after the religious element of the assembly.

**Form Time Prayer & Worship** - The form tutor leads a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week. This act of worship takes place in the 'Sacred Time' during morning registration.

**Sacred Time** - Each morning from 8:40 - 8:45am. it is intended that there should be no disruptions, messages or meetings to enable prayer and worship to be effective. A bell sounds at 8:40am to signal the start of this 'Sacred Time'.

## Strategies

### ***Prayer Themes***

Prayers themes are based around national/international days of awareness. However, they also link to scripture as well as British Values and cultural capital.

It should be noted that there will be times when the theme is wholly inappropriate - times of celebration, disaster or tragedy will be explored in worship as they arise.

### ***Themes and Form Group Worship***

Digital resource sheets for the themes are provided each week. These sheets are not intended to be prescriptive. Ideally they should be used as a source of ideas or as a framework on which to develop worship that is appropriate and relevant to the particular form tutor and class. These resources can also be found in the 'Sacred Room' Google Classroom and on the [school website](#).

- Materials can also be used as a resource for assembly providers.
- Resource sheets are digital, and contain links to YouTube videos, daily scripture reading and creative activities.
- Prayer list – digital prayer list – requested by staff and students and read out by a student.
- Posters to be displayed in the classroom / CD's are often used.
- Other resources, for example candles, are provided when required.
- Twitter/Instagram is also used to raise awareness of the liturgical calendar.
- The chapel can also be used during Form Time.
- Sacred time also links to world religions and 'one off' resources provided for religious festivals.

### ***Student Involvement***

Students are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies and in form groups. Each term, there will a week where forms will lead the assemblies for their own house. The Year 11 Senior Team also plan and lead at least one week of assembly each year.

### ***Visiting Speakers***

Visiting speakers form an important, if occasional, part of the collective worship program. They can offer a breadth and variety of worship experiences for students.

### ***CPL***

ITT trainees and new members of staff receive INSET on Collective Worship. The RE Department also provides help and support to those staff planning an assembly.

## Conclusion

Prayer and worship is central to the Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide students with experiences of collective worship that are relevant, appropriate and life-giving. In so doing we would strive as a community to recognise "the faithful God's initiative of love" and to encourage and enable a true and genuine response.