

Collective Worship Policy

St Clement's Catholic Primary School



Approved by: Governing Body

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1. MISSION STATEMENT

Growing together in Love and Learning

To do this we will:

- Show respect by being friendly to everyone, looking after everything that God has created and treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Christ centered)
- Provide a high quality education which enables everyone to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. (Education)
- Celebrate the school's place in the community and the wider world. (Community)

Objectives:

(Christ Centered)

- Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations.
- Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education, through a well taught and resourced 'Come and See' programme.
- Encourage all to develop their understanding of and relationship with God, while at the same time respecting that others choose to express their faith in different ways.
- Be positive role models, who treat each other with respect and are willing to forgive and be forgiven.

(Education)

- As teachers, to be both inspirational and creative so that every child's achievements are recognised and celebrated and that they are encouraged to become independent learners.
- To provide a safe and happy learning environment so that every child feels valued and secure within our school family.
- To encourage regular communication with parents by creating a positive and caring support network for the extended school family.

(Community)

- To join with the parish and local community to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.
- To enhance the curriculum by uniting as one all of the generations in the community and fostering mutual respect.
- To provide opportunities for the children to visit places of interest and experience a range of different cultural events in order for them to gain a better appreciation of the world around them and to 'fire' their own aspirations.

- To participate in charitable activities and be able to empathise with the needs of others

2. Introduction

- In order to fulfil this Mission Statement St Clement's Catholic Primary School places great importance upon the Daily Act of Worship.
- The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents and pupils the manner in which Collective Worship will be delivered in this school.

3. Aims:

Collective Worship at St Clement's aims to: -

- Create a caring, Catholic Community within which all feel welcome, valued and respected and in which the faith life of each individual will be nurtured and developed according to the values and teachings of the Christian Gospels.
- Provide experiences of a loving and worshipping community.
- Provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.
- Give opportunities for pupils and staff to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Give pupils and staff opportunities to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered.
- Promote a common ethos and shared value.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

4. The Character of Collective Worship in a Catholic School

- Collective Worship in a Catholic School, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character.
- It will reflect the tradition of the Church and will have Christ at its heart.
- Our policy at St Clement's is to try to ensure that we are both pro-active and reactive.
- Proactive is the sense of planning and anticipating what is appropriate for all pupils to know, understand and be able to reflect upon.
- Reactive is the sense that we shall be able to react to people's life situations, and the joys and sorrows, the hopes and uncertainties which are experienced therein, with warmth, patience, understanding, love and hopefully a little wisdom.

5. The Legal Requirements

- A daily Act of Collective Worship must be provided for all pupils in school.
- The Act must occur in school time, but not necessarily at the beginning of the school day.
- The whole school need not be present at the time of Collective Worship.
- All Acts of Collective Worship, whether 'broadly Christian' or not must take account of:
 - The pupils' age and aptitudes.
 - Their family background.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for all pupils every day.

6. The Personal and the Collective

- Collective Worship contributes to the knowledge, awareness and understanding of each individual pupil.
- It contributes to a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values in the school as a whole and in this way provides a secure framework in which pupils may develop their own spiritual and moral values and commitments.
- It should include times of silence when pupils may pray privately according to their own faith and traditions or when they may reflect or meditate.

7. Features of Collective Worship

It should seek to develop:

- A sense of reverence and devotion.
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- A sense of transience and constant change.
- A sense of pattern, sequence and change.
- A sense of identity, uniqueness and self-worth.
- An intuitive awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, good and evil etc.

8. The Programme of Collective Worship at St Clement's: -

At St Clement's, Collective Worship takes place in the following activities: -

- Through 'Come and See'
- Daily class worship and prayers
- School and Key Stage and class assemblies
- School Masses and Celebration of the Sacraments.

The timing and organisation of daily Collective Worship is flexible. It need not be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single Act of Worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different classes or year groups. Collective Worship may take place in the classroom, the hall, the church or the outdoors; in fact, it may take place wherever a group are gathered and have the urge to praise God.

Each class teacher has allocated time each day, the time allowance being in line with policy i.e. the specified time for the age of the child. (see Appendix 1)

Once a week the Act of Collective Worship takes place as part of a whole school assembly. The other days it takes place in class groups.

Each week at St Clement's, the whole school comes together to emphasise the unity of our community. This assembly is usually led by the Headteacher. It takes the format of formal prayers followed by an Act of Collective Worship. The focus is usually based on the 'Wednesday Word' – sharing Sunday's Gospel. Appropriate resources are displayed on a focus table. School announcements are then made and presentations for good work, behaviour, attendance etc.

9. The Character of Collective Worship & Some Practical Guidelines:

- Collective Worship must be appropriate to the pupils. Provided that, taken as a whole, an Act of Worship which is broadly Christian reflects the tradition of Christian belief, it need not contain only Christian material.
- It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.
- Age-related groupings allow the content of Collective Worship to be targeted more closely to the pupils' needs.
- Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear.
- Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

The broad and rich diversity of Worship Practice might include: -

- Introductory music to create the mood and focus attention
- The singing of hymns and songs
- The reading of a short passage of scripture.
- Appreciation of a painting / work of art
- Appreciation of a piece of music.
- Having a talk / story.
- Taking part in a closing prayer.
- The opportunity for children to share their own thoughts and prayers.
- The use of artefacts.
- The use of ICT and multimedia (DVD, power-points etc.)
- Drama and role-play.
- The questioning of pupils and the opportunities for quiet reflection.
- There should be a sense of peace, thankfulness and stillness in the midst of a busy experience.

The format for Prayer and Worship for our school will be:

- Gather – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- Listen – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible, with the reading of the day being the first source. The Word of God will be proclaimed from a bible or lectionary.
- Respond – The response to the Word may lead into a time of ritual action or communal prayer. The ritual action may vary (dance, music, drama, art, poetry etc.) We place our needs before God (intercessory prayers.)
- Go Forth – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

10. Pupil involvement

- Taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an Act of Collective Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel actively able to identify with the act of worship.
- At St Clement's the children are encouraged to aid the planning process for Collective Worship and contribute ideas and suggestions e.g. theme music, prayers and activities. They should have a sense of belonging and help to create a calm, peaceful and positive atmosphere. All the children are encouraged to participate in the singing of hymns, the prayers and the time for reflection and

thanksgiving. The prayers may be formal or informal and be developmental and age-appropriate.

- Pupils should find the Act of Collective Worship enjoyable and relevant to their everyday lives and experiences.

11. Feedback and Evaluation

- Feedback from Collective Worship is verbal between staff and children. It is also evident in the way the children respond and behave towards each other and in the general atmosphere and level of expectations within the school.

12. Right of Withdrawal

- If the parent of a pupil in attendance at any maintained school requests that he/she be wholly or partly excluded from attendance at religious worship in school, the pupil will be excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

13. Mass

- Whole school Masses will be celebrated each term, on all Holy days of Obligation falling within school time and on St Clement's Day and Ash Wednesday.
- At the end of the spring term, there will be a service for the whole school based on the Way of the Cross.
- Key Stage 2 will prepare an advent service to take place at St. Clement's Church in Ewell.
- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will present a play based on the Christmas Story.

14. The Role of the RE Subject Lead

The Lead will: -

- Take the lead in policy development and its effective delivery throughout the school.
- Support colleagues in the development of Collective Worship in the classroom and in assemblies.
- Monitor progress in the delivery and development of Collective Worship.
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of resources for Collective Worship, including the collection of evidence across the school.

Appendix 1

15. Timetable of weekly collective worship

Day of the week	Act of collective worship
Monday	Gospel Assembly – whole school
Tuesday	Collective worship in class
Wednesday	Collective worship in class
Thursday	Collective worship in class
Friday	Anchor or Values Assembly