

St Hugh's Catholic Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Mission Statement

St Hugh's School provides a welcoming, safe and secure environment for all. Our school aims to be a community which reflects real gospel values of love and forgiveness. A community in which each individual, child or adult, can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding; so as to broaden their appreciation of the world, its cultures and its people.

Every day ... Growing in God's Love

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and actions, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Collective Worship takes account of 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 experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

Aims

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all children and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- To celebrate God working within us.
- To introduce our children to the language of worship through song and prayer.
- To praise and worship Our Lord and to understand the need for, and importance of, prayer.
- To reflect on the Gospel values.
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- To enrich religious experience and grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To take time 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with', and give worth to.

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school.
- Give children positive liturgical experience appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible to help to personalise the experience.
- Be short and appropriately paced.
- Be simple, including a range of experience offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

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Collective Acts of Worship at St Hugh's follow a variety of formats and are held at different times of the day. Formats include:

- Daily gathering of each class, at some time during the day
- Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 Assembly
- Whole school liturgical celebrations
- Class prayer at the beginning and end of each day
- Assemblies / Collective Worship with parents
- Short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- A range of types of prayers
- A range of styles of celebration
- Opportunities for children to take part in worship
- Opportunities for reflection and stillness

Assemblies

Key Stage 2 - Monday afternoon led by Deputy Headteacher or senior leader

Key Stage 1 – Wednesday afternoon led by Deputy Headteacher or senior leader

Elements of Collective Worship

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| *Music | *Prayer |
| *Words | *Scripture |
| *Silence | *Symbolic Action |
| *Suitable Environment | *Ministry |
| *Gesture | *Drama |

Not every celebration will involve all of these elements.

Planning of Collective Worship:

- Follows a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, Come and See, significant dates, curriculum, current events and the Collective Worship calendar
- A weekly planner is used
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- Children will also prepare, organise and lead worship.