

# St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed September 2017

# **St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School**

## **Mission Statement**

**Living, loving and learning together in partnership  
following Jesus' example.**

*'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the  
full'*

*John 10:10*

### **Collective Worship**

#### **What is Collective Worship?**

Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power (Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94 Department for Education).

Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God.

Prayer is the means by which we are drawn into a deeper and more loving relationship with God and with all of God's creation.

#### **The Aims of Collective Worship**

The daily act of worship aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God and to give honour, praise and thanks to Him
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop a community spirit

- To develop a common ethos and shared value
- To develop the skills of: reverence, contemplation, reflection, interpretation, empathy, meditation
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding
- To reinforce prayers which are part of Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

### **Collective Worship at St Elizabeth's**

The Worship, which takes place at St Elizabeth's, is Collective Worship. It is central to Catholic Education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

This 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.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain.

### **Why have Collective Worship?**

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God.

At St Elizabeth's Collective Worship is a time to:

- Reflect on spiritual and moral issues.

- Reflect on personal belief.
- Respond to and celebrate life.
- Enable and encourage a sense of belonging.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Wonder at.
- Give worth to.
- Take time out.
- Encourage a common ethos and shared values.
- Develop community spirit.
- Enrich the religious experience of children and staff.
- Contemplate something of the mystery of God.
- Build a firm foundation for liturgy.

### **Collective Worship – who?**

- The Head teacher's role is to ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.
- Pupils must have the opportunity to take part, plan and lead daily Collective Worship.
- Teachers plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day.
- Governors approve the Policy statement for Collective Worship.
- Parents can be invited to participate in Collective Worship (parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily Collective Worship).

### **Where does Collective worship take place?**

- In the classroom
- In the open
- In the School Hall
- In Church

### **When does Collective Worship take place?**

At St Elizabeth's Collective Worship may take place:

- At the beginning of the day.
- At an appropriate time of day according to each class's need as indicated on timetables.

### **How does Collective Worship take place?**

At St Elizabeth's we realise that every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day.

We aim to provide every child with a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors.
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama, slides, video/DVD excerpts or a short address.
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age, range, backgrounds and ability of pupils.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- Can be offered for a class, year group, a key stage or whole school.
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting.
- Respect the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Collective Worship at St Elizabeth's follows the following liturgical structure:

**Gather** - how we come together, the setting, the environment.

**Listen** - the Word of God is proclaimed

**Respond** - the response to the Word leads into a time of prayerful reflection which may be accompanied by a symbolic action

**Go Forth** - giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

At St Elizabeth's Collective Worship is planned with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. It is planned through consultation with appropriate parties and reference to the school's aims and policies. It is planned with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community.

Collective Worship is evaluated regularly through observation, monitoring of planning and self-evaluation.

At St Elizabeth's we record Collective Worship through displays, prayers, photographs, samples of pupils' work and reflections. Themes, leaders, pupil grouping and resources are recorded on a daily/weekly planner.

## **Collective Worship Timetable**

Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1 Tuesday, 9:15 - 9:25am

Key Stage 2 - Monday, 9 - 9:10am

Collective Worship takes place in class on days not stated.