

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of St Thomas More's School is *to educate and inspire every child to fulfil their unique giftedness within a loving Catholic community.* Through Collective Worship, pupils explore their unique giftedness and their part in bringing about God's Kingdom.

RATIONALE

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts upon them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.'
Matthew 7:24

Together with parents and our priests, our school plays a key role in building the foundations of our faith for the pupils in our care.

By celebrating the Word and Eucharist effectively, vitally and joyfully, we can increase the power of the Word, the value and authenticity of sign and symbol, and the sense of Church.

AIMS

- To enable the pupils to participate fully in different forms of worship, especially the Eucharist.
- To enable the pupils to grow in communion with God, each other and the wider community.
- To familiarise the pupils with the different forms of worship within our faith.
- To enable pupils to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus and his teachings.

OBJECTIVES

- To enable our pupils to participate in the rites and prayers of the Mass.
- To provide opportunities that offer a variety of experiences of personal and collective prayer and worship.
- To provide pupils with the experience of praying prayers used by the Catholic Church.
- To explore and reflect upon the values which underpin our beliefs and actions.
- To enable the pupils to reflect on scripture within liturgy and worship.
- To reflect the Church's liturgical year within the school's different forms of worship.
- Through experience, to deepen understanding of signs and symbols that express our beliefs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Religious Education Manager will evaluate and review provision, progression, and pupils' participation. This information will be used to identify areas for development/INSET.

The Diocesan Self-Review process provides opportunities annually to focus on specific areas of RE within our schools:

- A The School as a Catholic Community
- B Curriculum religious education
- C Pupils' spiritual and moral development

There are sub-sections within each area and at the end of the review each sub-section produces a target or targets for development. The school then prioritises these to include in School Improvement Plan.

Policy reviewed by staff – March 2017

Approved by Curriculum Committee – March 2017

Review 3 yearly – July 2020

GUIDELINES TO THE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

PRINCIPLES

To worship God is to raise our hearts and minds to Him, in reverence and praise, as individuals and as a community. It plays an important part in the development and growth of our faith and our relationship with God. It can instil in us a sense of belonging, dignity, grace, self-discipline, order, respect, thanksgiving, repentance, community spirit, creed, tradition, sacrifice – all of which influence our way of life.

Acts of Worship in our school will:

- take place every day
- be an integral part of the life and character of the school
- be appropriate to the pupils' age and ability
- take account of different faith/family backgrounds
- provide a variety of prayer and liturgical experiences (see ELEMENTS)
- require the pupils' participation
- usually include scripture

Members of the parish and parents are invited to celebrate classroom and School Liturgies

PLANNING, CONTENT AND DELIVERY

- All collective worship is planned (see Appendix 1 - optional)
- It is structured, with reference to the Church's liturgical year/ God Matters (R.E. Scheme of work),
- It is flexible, in order to respond to school, local, or world community situations/issues
- It provides opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship
- Collective worship will take place every day:
 - Monday & Friday, 9:15 am, whole school, in Hall – usually led by teacher
 - Tuesday – Thursday, class groups, in classrooms (or other chosen venue),
c.10 minutes
 - Annual class Eucharistic/ Liturgy of the Word celebrations, with priest (when available/appropriate)
 - Eucharistic celebrations at the beginning and end of school year, Harvest, Holy days of Obligation, St. Thomas More's feast day (as appropriate)
 - Penitential Services during Advent and Lent

RECORDING

- Use Collective Worship planner, or own format if required, to record themes, prayers, scripture, leaders, groupings music/ hymns, resources
- Through displays in classrooms, school and classroom prayer tables

ELEMENTS

- Focal point in classrooms, Hall, or other
- Music
- Scripture
- Prayers
- Movement
- Participation
- Guests (Who? When?)
- Symbols
- Signs
- Posters/PP/icons/statues
- Acclamation
- Silence
- Meditation
- Reflection
- Hymns
- Posture
- Psalms
- Blessings
- Intercessions
- Ritual
- Gesture
- Repetition
- Contemplation
- Spontaneity
- Flowers/plants
- Litanies
- Greeting
- Gather-Listen-Respond-Go
- Timing