

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

2023

Trusting in God – we love, believe and achieve.....together.

Our mission as a Catholic School is to inspire all children to achieve their full potential in the living love of Christ. Collective worship at St Brigid's is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show honour, glory and reverence to God. It may involve all members of the school, children from a Key Stage or a class coming together and participating in an act of worship.

Aims and Purpose

At St. Brigid's Catholic Primary School, all children will be introduced to the worship of God and the Liturgy of His Word on an increasing scale as they progress through the school. The staff and Governors should recognise that each child will have a different background with regards to the worship of God.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship at St. Brigid's are:

- to allow children the opportunity to praise and worship God in an atmosphere of joy, happiness, friendliness and celebration;
- to provide children with the opportunity to reflect the values of scripture and the Gospels;
- to understand the need for, and importance of prayer.
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to develop the capacity to listen, to forgive and to ask forgiveness;
- to encourage participation, reflect on personal belief and express gratitude;
- to develop a community spirit and work together as a Christian community;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values such as respect for others, truth, forgiveness and justice;
- to reinforce positive attitudes and celebrate God working within us;
- to teach children how to plan, deliver and evaluate their own personal contributions to Collective worship.

Who participates in Collective Worship?

We invite all members of our community to participate in Collective Worship, regardless of belief, ability or background, and we work hard to make it relevant and rewarding for all.

Children must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship and to take an increasing role in planning, preparing and leading an act of worship.

Teachers are responsible for planning and enabling Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents and Governors are regularly invited to participate in Collective Worship (but parents also have the legal right to withdraw their child).

Where does Collective Worship take place?

Collective worship can take place:

- within the classroom
- in the school hall
- in church
- in the open
- other venues

“As a rule, all acts of Collective Worship should take place on the school premises. However, the governing bodies of grant maintained, aided and special agreement schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.” (Education Reform Act 1988)

When does Collective Worship take place?

It is a legal requirement that every child must have an opportunity to take part in Collective Worship every day. To ensure that Collective Worship is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants it needs to occur at the most appropriate time for the class/ key stage / school. Class teachers are encouraged to look at their weekly curriculum and place Collective Worship at a time which enables the children to have a quality experience.

At St Brigid’s, daily acts of collective worship are organised as follows to provide a range of experiences throughout the week for all children:

Monday: Whole School Collective Worship (school hall)
Tuesday: Class Collective Worship (classroom)
Wednesday: Class Collective Worship (classroom)
Thursday: Class Collective Worship (school hall/classroom)
Friday: Whole School Collective Worship (school hall)

Assembly themes are taken from the traditions of the Catholic faith, incorporating key religious feasts and events from the Christian calendar as well as whole school values.

Children and teachers may focus on the theme from “The Wednesday Word” resource or include themes from ‘Come and See’ topics, the liturgical year, events within our school and classes, national or world events, or any other appropriate areas.

Teachers have a list of relevant and appropriate scripture to choose from which the RE lead passed on from archdiocesan training.

Collective Worship is planned for, monitored and evaluated.

Harvest, Christmas and Easter Celebrations are central whole school celebrations for our school family. On Friday our Assembly is two-fold. Collective worship is led by the Headteacher. The second part of the assembly is a celebration of the achievements and learning of the children during the week. We invite parents to some of our special assemblies, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school, work together to support our children. We welcome governors’ attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Rejoice Celebrations

These take place during the final stage of each “Come and See” topic. Children are encouraged to plan and lead as much as possible using the “Come and See” planner. These plans, evidence from and evaluations of Rejoice celebrations are collected in class books.

How does Collective Worship take place?

Collective Worship can be led by:

- Headteacher / SLT / RE Lead / Father David
- Class teacher / Support Staff
- Children
- Visitors

In order to provide children with quality experiences of Collective Worship, teachers at St. Brigid’s will:

- Ensure that the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and abilities of learners (time: approximately one minute for each year of a child’s life).
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit (use of music / lighting).
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols etc.
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship.
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Teachers will use a variety of building blocks:

- Short address/personal experience
- Readings: Scripture / poetry / story
- Drama / dance / song / role play
- Artefacts / posters / natural materials
- Time for reflection / silence
- Prayer: informal / formal (Psalms / children’s own prayers etc)

When children plan Collective Worship:

Gather

- What music might you play?
- How will you arrange the children?
- Will you light the candle(s)?
- Can you find an appropriate picture / poster / artefact? – explain it.

Listen

- Who will read?
- What will you read?
(Scripture / Prayer / Psalm / Poem / Story / Hymn)
- Will you act out the reading or use a Power Point presentation?

Respond

- How will you help your friends to reflect on what they have read?
- Will you say prayers that need a response?
- Who will lead the prayers?

Go Forth

- What do you want your friends to take away from this Act of Worship to remember its message.

Collective Worship will be recorded through:

- Planning sheets
- Collections of learner's contributions/prayers, reflections
- Photographs – X (formerly Twitter) / Class Dojo / Seesaw/ iTrack

In Key Stage 1, children take increasing responsibility for selecting resources from a selection provided by their teacher - reading scripture, leading prayers and setting out and tidying away prayer resources.

Throughout Key Stage 2, children are given increasing responsibility in selecting appropriate resources around a theme, choosing prayers, scripture and music and in evaluating their plans so that, by the end of Key Stage 2, children are confident in planning, delivering and evaluating appropriate Collective Worship.

Appendix 1
Guidance for the introduction of formal prayers.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Main prayers</u>	<u>Additional prayer</u>
Nursery	Lunchtime: Thank you	
Reception	Morning: Angel of God Lunchtime: Thank you Home time: Hands together	
Year 1	Morning: Dearest Loving Jesus Lunchtime: Thank you Home time: Hands together	The Lord's Prayer
Year 2		Hail Mary
Year 3	Morning: Dearest Loving Jesus Lunchtime: Grace before meals – Bless us O God Home time: God bless my family	Glory Be
Year 4		Glory Be
Year 5		Eternal Rest
Year 6		Eternal Rest

<u>Morning prayer</u>	<u>Lunchtime prayer</u>	<u>Home time prayer</u>
<p>Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love entrusts me here. Ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.</p>	<p>Thank you for the world so sweet, Thank you for the food we eat, Thank you for the birds that sing, Thank you, God for everything.</p>	<p>Hands together, softly so, Little eyes shut tight; Father, just before we go, Hear our prayer tonight. We are all God's children here, This is what we pray, Keep us when the dark is near, Each and every day. Amen.</p>
<p>Dearest Loving Jesus I offer you today, Everything I do and everything I say. Here are my hands to do good work, my lips to speak good words, my thoughts to think what's kind and true, I give myself to you. Amen</p>	<p>Grace before meals. Bless us O Lord, as we sit together, Bless the food we eat today, Bless the hands that made the food, Bless us O Lord. Amen.</p>	<p>God bless my family, Bless them night and day. God bless my friends to keep all harm away. God bless us children, Bless our work and play. God bless everyone today. Saint Brigid pray for us, Saint Brigid pray for us, Saint Brigid pray for us.</p>

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.