

All Saints Catholic College



Collective Worship (Liturgy) Policy

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Review date: July 2022

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Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

At All Saints, our mission statement states: *'We are a Catholic community dedicated to providing an excellent education to all of our pupils so that they fulfil their ambitions and exceed their expectations.'*

'We work together as a family through mutual respect so that everyone succeeds academically and grows spiritually.'

As such, we are dedicated to providing an excellent education to all pupils that develops the whole child and gives them a spiritual experience and understanding that is embedded throughout their school life, and which allows them to grow in their faith.

In our College we seek to nurture this spiritual development within the College and good preparation of appropriate involvement within the Mass and Liturgy.

Aims of Collective Worship

Catholic life at All Saints should be central to the life of the school and a feature of every school action and celebration. Acts of Collective Worship, therefore, should be embedded within this and should be inclusive, educational and spiritual.

Worship should be relevant to pupils' experience, involve them as participants and foster a sense of community within the school. Collective worship reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church, whilst taking into account the spiritual and educational needs of all who share in it. In line with DfE/OFSTED guidance, we aim to support pupils with different religious beliefs in their prayer rituals.

Worship should be linked to the Catholic liturgical calendar and key events in the year (ie Holocaust Day, Remembrance Day) and allow pupils opportunities to reflect on the mission of our school and should provide opportunities for individual reflection in an atmosphere conducive to the consideration of the transcendent and sense of mystery. Ultimately, collective worship should be meaningful and pupils should leave with a purpose to achieve.

Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into practice with the duty to serve echoed in the College motto of 'Be Inspired, Be Excellent, Succeed'.

The role of the Chaplaincy Team

At All Saints we believe that worship is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour and praise to God. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical life of the College is organised and monitored by the second in RE/ Chaplain, with support from the Head of RE and Senior Team, who plan and arrange liturgies together with the local clergy, where possible. A weekly set of daily prayers is provided to assist tutors in

leading Collective Worship. This contains prayers and reflections related to everyday life / events and the liturgical year. Daily events are arranged throughout Advent and Lent to support children's understanding of those liturgical seasons. The chaplaincy team also arranges and organises regular acts of worship or liturgical events so that our children are consistently exposed to Catholic acts of worship.

The religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in worship are also taken into consideration, when acts of Collective Worship are planned.

Designated staff, principally the Second in RE/Chaplain, are also responsible for developing a programme of retreats to be made accessible for identified year groups as well as working with Heads of Year, and organising events that give students the opportunity to show service to others through acts of charity.

Daily Prayers

'Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is of prime importance, however, that sound educational and pastoral principles determine the ways in which these are experienced in the school community'

Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Roman Catholic School, Third Ed. 1994, CES

The College day begins with prayer, which is central to our life and work in this Catholic College. At All Saints, we believe that our community can be made distinctive by:

- praying with students;
- helping students to reflect on their prayers;
- encourage students to create their own prayer
- enable students to participate in the liturgy;
- foster a quiet and prayerful environment;
- celebrate prayer and learning through assemblies;
- participate in staff prayer (including a rota involving all staff for whole staff briefings);
- working with the parish communities;
- sharing with students in Eucharistic and other liturgical celebrations.

A weekly set of daily prayers is available to all teachers with liturgical prayers and reflections highlighted. With these prayers to hand, staff are expected to lead prayers at the beginning and of each day.

School Masses

We aim to organise school masses at various times of the year, but this is dependent on the availability of local priests and the national situation (ie Covid). The prayers, readings, music and various liturgical presentations are organised by identified staff in conjunction with the local clergy, who continue to support the liturgical life of the school. Each year group should have at least one mass per academic year.

School Liturgies

There are occasions when it is more suitable to organise a non-eucharistic or para-liturgical services. Once again, identified staff will prepare an appropriate liturgy, often assisted by other departments but crucially, involving a group made up of students.

Year Group Collective Worship/ Assemblies

A school Collective Worship/Assembly rota is produced each year that includes acts of collective worship (traditionally called assembly) organised by Senior Leaders, Heads of Year, or Form Groups. This rota follows the liturgical calendar (which includes all the main feast of the Church's calendar) and themes are calendared to assist those leading the respective assemblies.

The aim is for all acts of Collective Worship to become more pupil-led in both planning and delivery.

Every Collective Worship/ Assembly, where possible, will follow the following routine:

- Students line up in form groups on the main yard. At this point students should be prepared for the occasion and be respectful. Uniform should be checked here and any issues resolved
- The SLT member assigned for that day should be at the front of the hall ensuring students are silent and respectful
- Students enter the main hall in silence and sit in silence awaiting the rest of the year group.
- Students are to stand
- Students are greeted with good morning and respond
- The College mantra is given and students repeat
- All (in line with personal beliefs) give the sign of the Sign of Cross, Opening Prayer or College Prayer
- Students are asked to be seated
- Exploration of Religious Theme as indicated by the Collective Worship rota for the year
- Reference to scripture and the College core values
- Closing Prayer
- Sign of the Cross
- Notices/Awards (Tutors should take a register as notices are shared)
- If Notices/Awards are likely to detract from the purpose of the assembly, be used as a means of disciplining students or cause the Assembly to overrun, these should be delivered in Form Period

The format of Collective Worship should be as follows:

ENTRY

- The Head of Year is present in the hall to receive students, and supervise and control their entry and exit.
- The senior staff member assigned to that day is present to assist with supervision and standards (uniform and silent entry).
- Pupils must enter the Hall in silence and in full correct uniform

ATMOSPHERE (Environment)

- The person with responsibility for leading each assembly should pay particular attention to creating an inspiring atmosphere conducive to prayer/reflection/worship – a sense of awe (a focal point, use of Music/Lighting/Word Focus/ Quotations etc)

PLANNING

- The Assembly should be thoroughly planned and prepared (use of imaginative resources).

THEME

- The theme should help students explore the Liturgical Year/College Values/celebrate our pupils' achievements; gifts and talents. The general themes for each week are published in the staff handbook each year
- Make sure that it is clear what key messages you want the pupils to leave the Collective Worship with
- Use appropriate scripture where possible
- Make sure you open opportunities for pupil response.

ENGAGEMENT & RESPONSE

All staff should ensure that, throughout the act of Collective Worship:

- Pupils act with reverence & respect
- Pupils are inspired
- Pupils participate enthusiastically.
- Pupils are challenged to put the teaching into practice.