

# All Saints Catholic College



## **Collective Worship (Liturgy) Policy**

Approved by Governors: January 2012

Reviewed by Governors: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

Review date: June 2019

# **All Saints Catholic College**

## **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 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 education 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 curricular activities and allow pupils opportunities to reflect on the educational aims 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.

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, 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.

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, 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 pupils 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 pupils;
- helping pupils to reflect on their prayers;
- encouraging pupils to create their own prayer
- enabling pupils to participate in the liturgy;
- fostering a quiet and prayerful environment;
- celebrating prayer and learning through assemblies;
- participating in staff prayer (including a rota involving all staff for whole staff briefings);
- working with the parish communities;
- sharing with pupils 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 end of each day with additional time being afforded during form time.

## **School Masses**

We aim to organise school masses at various times of the year, but this is dependent on the availability of local priests. 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.

## **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 pupils.

## **Year Group Collective Assemblies**

A school Collective Worship 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 feasts of the Church's calendar) and themes are calendarised to assist those leading the respective assemblies.

In line with recent OFSTED guidance on collective worship, our aim is for these assemblies to become more pupil-led in both planning and delivery.

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

The format of Collective Worship should be as follows:

- Pupils line up in form groups on the main yard. At this point, pupils 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 pupils are silent and respectful.
- Pupils enter the main hall in silence and sit in silence awaiting the rest of the year group.
- Pupils are to stand.
- Pupils are greeted with 'good morning' and respond.
- The college mantra is given and pupils repeat.
- All give the Sign of the Cross, Opening Prayer or Prayer.
- Pupils are asked to be seated.
- Exploration of the 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 pupils or cause the assembly to overrun, these should be delivered in Form Period.

### **ENTRY**

- The Head of Year is present in the hall to receive pupils, and supervise and control their entry and exit.
- The Assistant Head 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 pupils 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
- **WHAT MESSAGE DO I WANT PUPILS TO TAKE AWAY?**
- Use appropriate scripture where possible
- Make sure you open opportunities for pupil response.

## **ENGAGEMENT & RESPONSE**

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