



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY & PROCEDURES

WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2023-2026

Mission Statement

*'The Lord God requires of us that we should help others whenever we can,
always make the right choices and be the best that we can be in everything that we do.'*



St. Cuthbert's

Roman Catholic High School

Policy: Whole School Collective Worship

Type: School Policy

Website: Yes

Authors: Mr D Shields

Approved: September 23

Next Review: September 2026

Frequency: 3 Yearly

Delegated: Governors

Notes:

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

"The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first, our own step is always a response"

(The Catechism of the Catholic Church)

A daily act of worship is not merely a statutory requirement but in St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic High School it is an integral element of the spiritual and prayer life of the community. Prayer should be a genuine conviction and part of a spiritual journey experienced by all.

(Where Two or Three are Gathered in my name, Cope et al).

Worship and prayer lie at the heart of the Christian life. It is a living and personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Within St Cuthbert's we root our prayer in the desire to live and teach in the light of the gospel.

Legal Requirements

The legal requirements for collective worship are laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act and in the Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (1993 – 1994), which was essentially an attempt to explain and enhance the 1988 Act.

It states that collective worship: **'Should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes'**.

It also states these acts of worship must be **"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character"** for the majority of the time. They must also be **"appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

Also, the requirement to promote **British values** as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

Aims

Collective Worship within St Cuthbert's offers opportunities to:

- celebrate the values of the gospel
- offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer
- develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community

- foster a sense of joy awe and wonder in all creation
- affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- explore social, moral and spiritual values in a cultural context
- support students and staff on their personal spiritual and religious journey
- promote and encourage British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty to reflect life in modern Britain.

Principles

Acts of Collective Worship should be:

- ✓ related to the age, ability and background of students
- ✓ designed to actively engage students, and elicit a response
- ✓ resourced and planned
- ✓ memorable and enjoyable
- ✓ an educational activity
- ✓ a sense of occasion
- ✓ flexible and able to respond to special occasions

Co-ordination

Overall planning and coordination rests with the Catholic Life of the School Lead. However, it is an expectation that individual teachers and students contribute to this throughout. Form tutors use the resources provided to make it appropriate for their form and all students must prepare and deliver prayers in form on a rota if at all possible. This work will be supported by the Gift Team.

All resources are digital, in line with the Diocesan liturgical calendar and available on the website for the wider community.

Organisation

Assembly - Each day of the week one Year group has a full assembly in the Main Hall. In each of these assemblies the act of worship is led by a member of SLT, the Head of Year, a Form Tutor, students or visiting speakers. The collective worship is always the first element of an assembly and all business matters are addressed only when this is complete. All assemblies follow the liturgical calendar and worldwide events and include a Gospel reflection.

Form Time Prayer & Worship - The form tutor or students on a rota basis lead a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week. This follows the liturgical calendar and worldwide events and includes Gospel scripture references.

Prayer Time - Each morning from 8:30 - 8:35am. it is intended that there should be no disruptions, messages or meetings to enable prayer and worship to be effective. Students arriving late should wait until asked to enter by the form tutor at this time. At specified times this may change e.g. if longer is required to launch Advent.

Strategies

Prayer Themes

Prayer themes are based around national/international days of awareness. However, they also link to scripture as well as British Values and cultural capital.

It should be noted that there will be times when the theme is inappropriate due to events which supersede the scheduled programme - times of celebration, disaster or tragedy will be explored in worship as they arise.

Themes and Form Group Worship

Digital resources for the themes are provided each week. These are not intended to be prescriptive. Ideally, they should be used as a source of ideas or as a framework on which to develop worship that is appropriate and relevant to the particular form tutor and class. These resources can be found in the X public drive for form tutors under weekly prayer slides.

- Materials can also be used as a resource for assembly providers.
- Resources are digital, and contain links to YouTube videos, daily scripture reading and creative activities.
- Prayer list – digital prayer list – requested by staff and students and read out by a student.
- Posters to be displayed in the classroom.
- Other resources, for example candles, are provided when required.
- Twitter and Facebook are used to raise awareness of the liturgical calendar.
- The chapel can also be used during Form Time.
- Collective worship also links to world religions and 'one off' resources provided for religious festivals.

Student Involvement

Students are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies and in form groups. Each term, there will be a week where forms will lead the assemblies for their own year.

Visiting Speakers

Visiting speakers form an important, if occasional, part of the collective worship program. They can offer a breadth and variety of worship experiences for students.

CPD

ITT trainees, ECTs and new members of staff receive INSET on Collective Worship. The Catholic life of the school Lead provides help and support to those staff planning an assembly. Planning documents are available in the X- public drive.

Conclusion

Prayer and worship is central to the Catholic life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide students with experiences of collective worship that are relevant, appropriate and life-giving. In so doing we would strive as a community to recognise "the faithful God's initiative of love" and to encourage and enable a true and genuine response.