



**Saint Paul's Catholic High School**

*Moving forward together. Achievement for all!*

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



**Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.**

Document Record	
Title	Collective Worship Policy
Date	September 2018
Supersedes	December 2014
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Date Approved by Headteacher	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2018
Approved Policy Seen by Governing Body	October 2018
Review Date	September 2019
Date Adopted by School	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2018

## **St Paul's Mission Statement**

*"Founded on the love of Christ, and recognising the inestimable worth of each individual, Saint Paul's exists to foster, with care and compassion, personal, spiritual and academic growth, extending into the community and beyond."*

## **Academy Mission Statement**

*"United in faith, we are the Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust.  
We come together as a Catholic family to enlighten minds, enrich souls and become the best people that God wants us to be; through work, service, prayer and fun.  
Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn."*

## **Legal requirements**

The Education Act 1996 requires that all students attending a maintained school shall take part in an act of collective worship on each school day. Schools can provide an act of collective worship in a variety of ways from a structured assembly programme to a series of thoughts for the day or readings that provide students with an opportunity to think and reflect.

## **Introduction to collective Worship at Saint Paul's**

Pope Benedict XVI stated in September 2010 that "education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for "both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts" (Wis 7:16)"

Collective worship at this school goes beyond the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Worship in this school is Christ centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic tradition, reflecting the values of the Gospel.

Collective worship should be defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils and staff to come together to pray and worship God. It is through these acts of communal worship that we may come to a fuller appreciation of ourselves, and of our relationship with God and others, while allowing us to reflect on what is of value and importance in our lives. All members of our school community have opportunities for prayer and reflection and both sacramental and non- sacramental liturgies.

There are many opportunities for the school community (pupils, staff, governors and parents) to share in the liturgical life of the school. Many occasions will be voluntary but encouragement is given to all to participate using their own gifts and talents. Acts of collective worship occur in year assemblies, morning prayer/reflection, reconciliation services and Eucharistic celebrations.

## **Aim**

To nurture an environment in which, and provide opportunities for, the members of our school community to express their belief through organised and collective acts of worship.

## **Rationale**

Collective Worship is held for the following reasons;

- To celebrate our faith
- To provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God
- To provide Eucharistic and non- Eucharistic liturgical experiences
- To involve as many people as possible in the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy
- To reflect upon our needs, hopes and those of our school family and the world we live in.
- To recognise each person's uniqueness and value
- To celebrate and educate the whole person, not only academically but morally and spiritually
- To provide opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Guidelines**

- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective worship every day in form or an assembly.
- The expectation is that every child will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation of a Mass and form assembly.
- To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and morning prayers have been produced.
- In Year 7 these include suggestions as to how we come together, use of a focus, and setting by using reflective music.

## **Expectations**

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate in acts of collective worship in a respectful and reverent way
- Parents are expected to:
  - promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship
- Teachers are expected to:
  - Ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church
  - Ensure that there are opportunities for quality Collective Worship to be delivered
  - Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Collective Worship
- Heads of Year are expected to:
  - Ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of collective worship
  - Monitor the quality of the acts of collective worship in form periods
- The Assistant Headteacher (AHT) Catholic Life and Ethos is expected to:
  - Ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is fully implemented
  - Evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Collective Worship
- The Governors are expected to:
  - Ensure that Collective Worship is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy
  - Ensure that any adult leading Collective Worship has been appointed with the understanding that they are able to fully support the Catholic nature and ethos of the school.

## **Assemblies**

Assemblies contribute in a special way to the ethos of St Paul's by:

- Following a liturgical theme throughout the year
- Sharing common aims and values
- Celebrating achievement and special times
- Exploring together the world in which we live
- Developing a community spirit
- Developing pupils own spirituality
- Reflecting on what it means to be human
- Reinforcing positive attitudes
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All assemblies support the Catholic Life and Ethos of our school. They all start with the sign of the cross and a lighted candle is a reminder of the presence of Jesus amongst us. They include Bible readings, prayers and opportunities for thought and reflection. Pupils are also asked to respond to what they have heard by being given a mission; some way of acting on what they have heard. Our assemblies also play an important part in the school Personal, Social and Health Education programme by looking at important social and moral issues.

Often assemblies will be followed up across the wider life of the school. Examples of this are: Anti- Bullying week, School Parliament, pupil Chaplains, raising achievement (whole school and girls on their own) charity fundraising, Year 11 mentoring, Behaviour for Learning. All students attend one assembly a week. The assembly rota for the current school year is outlined in the table below.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
Monday	Year 7&8
Tuesday	Year 9
Wednesday	Extended reading
Thursday	Year 10
Friday	Year 11

The school assembly pattern follows a series of themes throughout the year and is taken by the Headteacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and Forms on a rota basis. The assembly themes for the current academic years can be found in the staff handbook.

## **Form Time**

The tutorial programme is delivered by the form tutor during form time on four out of five mornings per week.

Form time was extended at the start of the academic year 2014 and now lasts from 8:40 until 9:05. This starts with a prayer and these are sent round to form tutors by the chaplain.

Tutorials consider a range of issues designed to make students pause and think. Some activities look at social or moral dilemmas, current affairs and some celebrate human qualities and achievements whilst others encourage students to think about their rights and responsibilities. Some activities may consider religious or cultural issues depending on the time of the year. Time is also allocated for silent reading and numeracy activities. Pupils are also encouraged to raise their own issues for discussion. These discussions not only raise important social and moral issues but also provide students with a structured forum to express their views and listen to those of others.

## **Masses**

Whole school celebrations of Mass take place at significant times of the year. These are:

- Start of the academic year
- End of each of the three terms
- St Peter & Paul feast day
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Masses take place in the sports hall with the exception of the last day before the Christmas holidays when pupils will be taken to St Anthony's RC Church Wythenshawe.

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our school and allows staff and pupils to come together in worship as a whole school family. As many staff and pupils as possible are encouraged to be involved in the preparation of Mass as well as having a role in the Mass itself. The RE, Music and Drama departments are especially supportive with their involvement. A number of staff and have been commissioned to support our school community as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Staff commissioned are:

Alex Hren  
Mike Whiteside  
Breeda Stewart  
Tom Wilson  
Louise Jordan  
Sarah Goodall  
Mrs Halbert  
Stephen Mc Mahon

## **Chaplaincy**

Currently Breeda Stewart is co-ordinating chaplaincy alongside Fr Michael Coughlan while we actively seek a chaplain for the next academic year.

During the year the lay chaplain will provide opportunities for Collective Worship across all year groups. Reconciliation Services will take place during Advent and Lent and as appropriate at other times in the year. Support will also be given to Form Tutors in leading Collective Worship. A number of voluntary Masses will also be celebrated during the year.

## **Retreats**

It is recognised that the experience of a retreat is a unique and valuable experience and supports the Collective Worship experiences of pupils. At present the arrangements are:

- Year 7 – Day visits to the Marist centre during the Autumn term.
- Year 8 – A three day retreat at Savio House during the second half of the Autumn Term.
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It is hoped to extend the retreat opportunities to our year 9 and 10 pupils during the academic year 2018-2019.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.