



St Thomas of Canterbury School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

To nurture curiosity for every child, every day within a community acting as a beacon of the Catholic faith.

The Nature of Collective Worship.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirement

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

The Place of Prayer and Worship in the Life of our School

Prayer, worship and liturgy are at the heart of our Catholic school and are integral to the ethos, mission and distinctiveness of our Catholic school community.

We believe that prayer and worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church.
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church.
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.
- Prayer and worship will be an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

There will be a class-based act of collective worship every day, in addition to prayers at the beginning of the day, lunchtime, and end of the day.

Every Monday the school meets for collective worship based on the Sunday Gospel. The school uses TenTen Theatre group resources to make the liturgy engaging and dynamic.

Themes for Collective Worship are organised according to

- The Liturgical Year
- Celebrations of special events in the life of the school
- Events locally, nationally and internationally, where appropriate

The Role of the Teacher

We believe that leading pupils in prayer is a vital and essential part of Catholic education. It is expected that teachers will:



- Provide opportunities for pupils to pray
- Provide pupils with meaningful prayer experiences
- Assist pupils to develop the language of prayer
- Teach pupils the traditional prayers of the Church
- Help pupils to develop habits of prayer

The Aims of Prayer and Worship

We believe that prayer and worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

To contemplate something of the mystery of God

- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To develop a language of prayer
- To experience a sense of belonging to a community
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To learn prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with', and 'to give worth to'.

All acts of prayer and worship in our school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its catholic character
- Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, ability and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for and develop their capacity to take part in the liturgical life of the Church.

Organisation of Prayer and Worship at St Thomas of Canterbury:

Collective Worship is planned:

- With a prepared theme with reference to the Church's seasons, "Come and See", significant dates and the curriculum and following a planned structure. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
- Through consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies.
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- To develop pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way

What Does Collective Worship Policy Look Like at St Thomas of Canterbury?

We use a four-stage model for collective worship, taking the mass as a perfect example of this.

1. Gather – We welcome everyone and prepare ourselves to get closer to God.
2. Word – We experience a piece of scripture using methods such as drama, art, music, movement, silence, story, song and poetry to bring it to life.



3. Response – We consider what we have seen and heard and how it relates to us.
4. Mission – We rejoice and go forth to live out the Gospel of the Lord in our lives.

All classrooms will have:

- Let us Pray cards with examples of Gather, Response and Mission
- Interactive resources, such as stones, shells, plants and music
- Resources related to the time of Liturgical year (Rosary beads in October, wreath during Advent etc.)
- Children’s Bible and/or Good News Bible

Year Group	Expectations – teacher	Expectations – children
FS1	<p>Four-stage model of collective worship introduced.</p> <p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in all teacher-led sessions.</p> <p>Teacher to choose scripture for all collective worships using the Liturgical planner as a guide and openbible.info/topics to help select scripture with a particular theme.</p>	<p>Children supported to prepare area for collective worship.</p> <p>Children supported to explain the purpose behind gathering together, lighting a candle, displaying the crucifix, and making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a part of the collective worship over the year.</p> <p>All children to evaluate collective worship and be able to say what they enjoyed and found helpful, and how to improve.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recognise religious stories ● recognise religious signs and symbols used in worship ● describe some religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship
FS2	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in all teacher-led sessions.</p> <p>Teacher to choose scripture for all collective worships using the Liturgical planner as a guide and openbible.info/topics to help select scripture with a particular theme.</p>	<p>Children supported to prepare area for collective worship.</p> <p>Children supported to explain the purpose behind gathering together, lighting a candle, displaying the crucifix, and making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a part of the collective worship over the year.</p> <p>All children to evaluate collective worship and be able to say what they enjoyed and found helpful, and how to improve.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recognise religious stories ● recognise religious signs and symbols used in worship ● describe some religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship
Y1	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in teacher-led session at least three times a week.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to use the Let Us Pray resources to plan collective worships.</p> <p>Teacher to choose scripture for all collective worships using the Liturgical planner as a guide and openbible.info/topics to</p>	<p>Children supported to prepare area for collective worship.</p> <p>Children supported to explain the purpose behind gathering together, lighting a candle, displaying the crucifix, and making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a part of the collective worship over the year.</p> <p>All children to contribute to planning a collective worship, including choosing and reading a religious story.</p> <p>All children to evaluate collective worship and be able to say what they enjoyed and found helpful, and how to improve.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recognise religious stories ● recognise religious signs and symbols used in worship



	<p>help select scripture with a particular theme.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to choose religious stories that they know for collective worship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe some religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship ● recognise that people act in a particular way because of their beliefs ● describe some religious beliefs
Y2	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in teacher-led session at least two times a week.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to use the Let Us Pray resources to plan collective worships.</p> <p>Teacher to choose scripture for most collective worships using the Liturgical planner as a guide and openbible.info/topics to help select scripture with a particular theme.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to choose religious stories that they know for collective worship and consider what the story means to them.</p>	<p>Children supported to prepare area for collective worship.</p> <p>Children supported to explain the purpose behind gathering together, lighting a candle, displaying the crucifix, and making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>All children to contribute to planning a collective worship, including choosing and reading a religious story. Children generate their own way of gathering to begin the liturgy.</p> <p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a full collective worship over the year, planned and delivered with support and guidance from an adult.</p> <p>All children to evaluate collective worship and be able to say what they enjoyed and found helpful, and how to improve.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recognise religious stories ● recognise religious signs and symbols used in worship ● describe some religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship ● recognise that people act in a particular way because of their beliefs ● describe some religious beliefs
Y3	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in teacher-led session at least once a week.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to choose religious stories that they know for collective worship and consider what the story means to them.</p>	<p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a full collective worship over the year, planned with support from an adult and delivered with limited support from an adult.</p> <p>Children evaluate all child-led collective worships using the self-peer-self approach.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe, with increasing detail and accuracy those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs ● describe, with increasing detail and accuracy, religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship ● make links between beliefs and life, giving reasons for actions and choices
Y4	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in teacher-led session at least once a half-term.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to choose a theme for their collective worship and a religious story that fits that theme.</p>	<p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a full collective worship over the year, planned with some support from an adult and delivered independently.</p> <p>Children evaluate all child-led collective worships using the self-peer-self approach.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe, with increasing detail and accuracy those actions of believers which arise as a consequence of their beliefs ● describe, with increasing detail and accuracy, religious symbols and the steps involved in religious actions and worship ● make links between beliefs and life, giving reasons for actions and choices
Y5	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in</p>	<p>All children to have the opportunity to lead a full collective worship over the year, planned with limited support from an adult and delivered independently.</p>



	<p>teacher-led session at least once a half-term.</p> <p>Teacher to guide children to choose a theme for their collective worship and a religious story that fits that theme.</p>	<p>Children evaluate all child-led collective worships using the self-peer-self approach.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● show knowledge and understanding of a range of scripture passages that corresponds to the scripture source used ● show understanding by making links between beliefs and life ● use religious vocabulary widely, accurately and appropriately
Y6	<p>Four-stage model explicitly modelled and explained in teacher-led session at least once a term.</p>	<p>All children to have the opportunity to plan and lead a full collective worship independently.</p> <p>Children evaluate all child-led collective worships using the self-peer-self approach.</p> <p>Children to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● show knowledge and understanding of a range of scripture passages that corresponds to the scripture source used ● show understanding by making links between beliefs and life ● use religious vocabulary widely, accurately and appropriately

Evaluations

Acts of collective worship (whether they be class based, key stage based, or whole school) will be periodically evaluated based upon direction from the RE leader and Headteacher, and the children will be involved in the evaluation process.

Child-led collective worship should be evaluated as a class at least once per week, using the self-peer-self approach:

1. Self – One thing we did well, and one thing we would change.
2. Peer – One thing the leaders did well, and one thing the leaders could change.
3. Self – One thing we did well, and one thing we would change.

Liturgy leaders

2 children from each key stage 2 class form part of our Liturgy Leaders group. This group meets weekly to help prepare whole school liturgies and class liturgies.

Key Stage Assemblies

Every Tuesday and Wednesday each key stage meets together for collective worship. This is led by a teacher with the help of a group of children who will lead the prayers and choose the hymns. These will be linked to the principles of social Catholic teaching, the core values of the school, and the value of the month. Links will be made with the Gospel readings where this is appropriate.

Class Assemblies

During Advent and Lent all Key Stage 2 classes holds an assembly for the rest of the school, staff and parents.

Class liturgies

Each class has a class liturgy at the end of each Come and See Topic which will be led by the children. Each liturgy follows the 'Gather, Listen to the Word, Response, Going Forth' format and so increasing support is given for the older children to plan and lead liturgies in class more.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament also takes place on the first Friday of every month.

Church Worship

The school has high levels of visibility within the parish church, with masses approximately every half term taking place either at Our Lady and St Thomas, or in school, led Fr Stephen Ssekiwunga, the parish priest. Links with the church and parish are also made through:

- Family Masses
- Liturgies to celebrate key feast days
- Christmas Carol performance in church
- Nativity play at Christmas Eve mass
- Easter Passion play

Our parish priest, family members, friends and parishioners are always invited to celebrate with us. At various times outside school hours/ Mass or Prayer services are planned for the whole school/parish community to worship together. Staff are encouraged to attend celebrations related to the Sacramental programmes in the parishes, wherever possible.

Liturgical Calendar

Children learn about the Liturgical life of the church through curriculum R.E, assemblies, involvement in displays and altars, masses and prayer services, power points, bible stories etc. The school newsletter is also colour coded to align with the appropriate colours of the church year.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to our class assemblies, productions and celebrations. They are invited to all masses. We encourage them to attend as we believe that this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a demonstration of home and school working together to support the children. Parents are encouraged to join in with all prayers and hymns during assemblies to lead by example in their involvement.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed and updated every year.