

St Augustine's Catholic Primary & Nursery School,
a Voluntary Academy

Collective Worship Policy



“When you pray, God listens.”

Jeremiah 29:12

February 2025

Head Teacher Signature	F.Moore
Date Accepted	February 2025
Review Date	February 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

We are created in the image of God,
we strive to love and serve Him in all that we do.
With the Gospel Values at the centre of our school,
we aim to value, welcome, understand and support others.
We do this in partnership with family and parish.

SERVE LOVE FORGIVENESS COMPASSION HOPE JUSTICE COURAGE

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school community.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, we usually base our liturgical prayer time on the teachings of Christ, Gospel stories and teachings and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we try to conduct our Liturgical Prayer in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community.

While the majority of acts of worship in the school are Christian, we hold collective worships that reflect moral values and which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and in the wider community.

AIMS

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To explore their own beliefs
- To enrich religious experience
- To promote the Gospel Values
- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote an ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship
- To encourage children to reflect
- To allow children to plan and lead their own collective worship

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

All classes participate in a daily act of collective worship, this may take the form of class prayers, whole school liturgical prayer, child led liturgical prayer or parish masses.

Our adult led collective worship follows the Catholic Liturgical year and use relevant and appropriate resources including Gospel readings, parables and psalms. We also use 'Word of the Week' which allows us to develop a good level of respect and understanding for ourselves, others and our faith. Children are actively encouraged to participate in these assemblies through leading prayers, liturgical dramas, sharing work or singing songs.

Our whole school collective worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and that all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to school masses which take place each half term, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the partnership between the home, parish and school community and how we work together to support the faith of our children.

Monday – Celebration Assembly (SLT Led)

Tuesday – Hymn Practice (Teacher Led)

Wednesday – Word of the Week Liturgical Prayer (Teacher Led)

Thursday – Class based Celebration of the Word (Child led)

Friday – Class led Celebration of the Word (Whole School)

RESOURCES

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally on the server, accessible to all staff, and reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role. Resources include, Let Us Pray 2gether, CAFOD and TenTen Resources.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

As we are a Catholic school, and parents have applied to the school knowing our distinctive Christian ethos, we expect all children to participate in prayers, assemblies, liturgies and masses.

However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship.

Reviewed February 2025