



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Collective Worship at St Columba's Catholic Primary School is the coming together of children and staff for the purpose of worshipping, praising, thanking, celebrating, and deepening our relationship with God.

The school is a Catholic foundation and therefore, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, it reflects and follows the traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart. The worship includes all those who seek to explore and deepen their spiritual beliefs, enabling all members of the community to reflect their shared understanding.

All children are involved and given an opportunity to respond in an act of worship each day. It gives all involved an opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God, the wonder of life, to share our common aims and to demonstrate our community spirit. On these occasions, children are given the opportunity to participate and respond.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims of Collective Worship in our school are:

- To promote and develop an appreciation of more active participation in prayer, liturgy and worship, relevant to the age and experience of each child
- To consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- To reinforce positive attitudes to prayer
- To develop links with parish community
- To reinforce Home/ School/ Parish links

2.2 The objectives of Collective Worship in our school are:

- To provide a daily act of worship for pupils and teachers
- To provide a prayer centre for each classroom
- To provide opportunities for reflection and silent prayer
- To encourage a variety of methods of prayer
- To gather together to celebrate the special times of the school calendar and liturgical year

3. ORGANISATION

3.1 Arrangements for Collective Worship are established by the Head teacher and Senior Management Team, in consultation with the staff. During the week, the children gather in their own class group and each Friday the whole school gathers together as part of the whole school assembly.

3.2 Collective Worship in the class group.

Collective Worship is delivered during the day, at a time which is most conducive to creating a prayerful and meaningful atmosphere. The class teacher decides at which point this takes place and the time allocated will be calculated using the scale of one minute for each year of the children's age. Within this time, there will be opportunities for quiet reflection as well as formal prayer.

Teachers are provided with a class theme for the week, which can be used, adapted or enhanced to suit the needs of their class. Themes are based on the Come and See programme, seasonal feasts, special events, or scripture. The class teacher is encouraged to use their own discretion to adapt

and respond to the current needs of their class. To encourage a prayerful atmosphere, use is made of a focus point, music and/or candles.

3.3 Whole School Assemblies

Collective Worship takes place during the whole school assembly. It is usually lead by the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher. Children are encouraged to make contributions and personal responses towards the theme of the Worship, which is usually based on scripture. Other stimuli for thought are special events, special dates or the Liturgical Calendar. At the appropriate time, the leader will begin the act of Collective Worship. It is brought to a close with the children reflecting on the message they should take from the session and a resolution to move forwards. This is then offered to the Lord in prayer and often through song. The school assembly will then continue, once the Collective Worship has come to an end.

Policy agreed by Governors:	June 2017
Signature of Chair of Governors:	<i>Mrs J Sims</i>
Signature of Head Teacher:	<i>Miss M Evans</i>
Date to be reviewed:	June 2018