
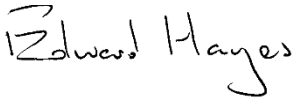


# Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Date:	17/05/20	Kate Hayles Head Teacher	
Policy Review Date:	21/05/21	Edward Hayes Chair of Governors	

# **Policy for Collective Worship at** **Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy**

## **Mission Statement**

At Sacred Heart School, the growth and development of the whole child is considered paramount, as human life is a blend of the spiritual, physical, social and the intellectual. We believe prayer, worship and liturgy should be valued experiences, which are an integral part of the daily life of the school. The school will not function in isolation and will endeavour to forge strong links with homes, parishes and the wider community.

The school will endeavour to maintain good relationships with all the children and adults who form the school community. It aims to provide a curriculum, which meets the educational needs and enhances the growth of the child within its full Christian development.

## **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 with Him.

## **Legal requirements.**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily Act of Worship for all pupils.

(This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single Act of Worship for all pupils, or separate Acts of Worship in class groups.)

We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement.

We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and Assembly are distinctive activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The Act of Worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, however, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic School, parents and prospective parents must be aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots', but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured.

## **The place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School.**

We believe that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who are in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in Church.
- Those for who school may be their first and only experience of Church.
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none.
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of School Life and central to the Catholic tradition and Ethos of the School.

### **Aims:**

We believe that Collective 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 grow in Liturgical understanding and development.
- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- To participate fully.
- To enrich religious experience.

### **Principles:**

All Acts of Worship in this school will;

- Give glory and honour to God.
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds, in order to prepare them for the Liturgical Life of the Church.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.