

St. Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary Academy Liverpool



Policy for Collective Worship

Collective Worship - What?

**"Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power."
(Circular 1/94)**

**"Prayer is the surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."
(St. Teresa of Lisieux)**

Worship which takes place in St. Teresa of Lisieux is Collective Worship.

This 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
- those from other faith backgrounds

Collective Worship a Spiritual experience:

- to which all can contribute
- from which all can gain



Worship in St. Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Primary Academy is more than a legal requirement. It is central to the Catholic education of our children and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, is Catholic in character, reflecting the liturgical traditions of the Church and has Christ at its heart.



Collective Worship - Why?

Aims:

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God and:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to reflect on personal belief
- to respond to and celebrate life
- to enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- to mark occasions as special
- to wonder at
- to take time out
- to build a firm foundation for liturgy
- to enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- to develop community spirit
- to encourage a common ethos and share values



Collective Worship - Who?

Governors have the responsibility for Collective Worship policy in consultation with the Head teacher and staff.

Head teacher's role is to ensure that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.

Teachers plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day.

Parents can be invited to participate in Collective Worship.

Pupils must have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship.

Collective Worship - Where?

Classroom

The majority of daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the classroom. These can take the form of:

- Prayers at the beginning of the day
- Grace before or after meals
- Circle time
- Spontaneous prayer
- Reflection
- Prayers at the end of the day
- Prayers through singing praises
- Rejoice celebrations to end the topic



School Hall

Collective Worship takes place here when we meet as a school community for:

- Assemblies
- Whole school celebrations

Church

When opportunities arise for classes and/or groups of children to visit St. Teresa's Parish Church:

- Feast Days or Days of Obligation
- End of term Mass
- During the Sacramental Programme



Collective Worship - When?

Classroom

- On a daily basis

Whole School

- Weekly basis
- Special occasions



Rejoice Celebrations

- Classes at the end of a Come and See topic, invite the parents to a class celebration.

Church

- Feast days
- End of term
- During the Sacramental Programme



Spontaneous Worship

- E.G. Early Years celebrated the falling of the first snow.

Staff Worship

- Weekly reflection
- New topic 'Come and See for Yourself'

Collective Worship - How?

Collective Worship in St. Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Academy provides a variety of experiences which:

- can be led by staff, pupils, clergy or visitors
- can be offered as a class, year group, key stage or whole school
- use a balance of reflection, silence, prayer, response, music or song

- provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols or lighting
- ensure the experience is appropriate to the age, background and ability of pupils
- respects the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to worship
- sets an atmosphere of order and occasion (including entry and exit)
- ensures the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present

Resources may include:

- candles
- natural objects (wood, rocks, flowers etc)
- Objects related to the topic being covered (a gift, a baptismal robe)
- Reflective music
- God's / Church's Story



Planning, recording and evaluating

Planned:

- in accordance to school aims and policies
- with reference to the Church's calendar, significant dates and curriculum
- use of the collective worship planning sheets
- with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and wider community

Recorded:

- through displays, collection of pupils contributions, prayers, reflections or photographs
- through note of themes

Evaluated:

- regularly by pupils and staff
- with reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible

Funded:

All resources are subject to budget considerations in consultation with the head teacher or R.E. co-ordinator.

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

