

# OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



We ASPIRE that through the love of Jesus everyone should  
"have life and have it to the full".

John 10:10

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed by: <i>Headteacher</i>	Approved by: <i>Governing Body</i>
Policy Date: <i>January 2026</i>	Next Review Date: <i>January 2028</i>
Review Frequency: <i>Every 2 Years</i>	



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*This policy is written in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI), the guidance of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the Catholic Education Service, and the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. It reflects the Archdiocesan model CW policy and is faithful to the teaching and mission of the Catholic Church.*

## **Intent**

At Our Lady's School, Collective Worship is central to the Catholic life and mission of the school. It is an integral expression of our identity as a worshipping community and is rooted in the belief that Christian worship celebrates God's living presence in our lives.

Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanksgiving to God. It is the school community's loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him—made possible through the saving work of Jesus Christ and the continuing presence and witness of the Holy Spirit.

In line with the Catholic Schools Inspectorate framework and the Religious Education Directory (2023), Collective Worship at Our Lady's School is purposeful, inclusive, reverent and formative, enabling pupils and staff to encounter Christ and to respond to the Gospel in their daily lives.

## **Our Intent for Collective Worship**

We aim to provide regular, high-quality opportunities for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate the mystery and presence of God
- reflect deeply on spiritual and moral questions
- explore and articulate their own beliefs with confidence and respect
- respond to and celebrate life in the light of the Gospel
- experience a strong sense of belonging and community
- develop a shared Catholic ethos rooted in Gospel values
- enrich and deepen their personal and communal prayer life
- grow in liturgical understanding and participation
- become familiar with and confident in the prayers and practices of the Catholic tradition
- reinforce positive attitudes, virtues and moral responsibility
- participate actively and increasingly independently in worship
- take time to wonder, reflect, and recognise what is of lasting value

Through Collective Worship, pupils are supported to develop spiritually, emotionally and morally, enabling them to recognise God at work in their lives and to respond generously to His call.



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Collective Worship at Our Lady's School affirms the dignity of every person, fosters reverence and stillness, and contributes significantly to the formation of pupils as followers of Jesus Christ, who seek to live out the Gospel message in everyday life.

## Implementation

Collective Worship at Our Lady's School is well-planned, regular and central to the daily life of the school, fully meeting the expectations of the Catholic Schools Inspectorate for Outstanding Catholic Life.

Opportunities for worship are carefully structured to enable pupils and staff to come together as a worshipping community, encounter Christ, and respond to the Gospel in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Collective Worship is inclusive, accessible to all, and respectful of pupils' differing stages of faith development, while remaining firmly rooted in the traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

### Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily and is clearly timetabled, ensuring consistency, purpose and progression.

- Monday – Whole-school Gospel Worship led by the Headteacher, rooted in the Sunday Gospel
- Tuesday – Class Collective Worship, pupil- and teacher-led, focused on Scripture, virtues and values
- Wednesday – Singing hymns or assembly with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching and British Values
- Thursday – Class Collective Worship and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in a Catholic context
- Friday – Celebration Assembly, recognising achievement and living out Catholic Virtues

Guided meditation, silent prayer and spontaneous prayer are woven throughout the week, enriching the prayer life of the school and enabling pupils to encounter God in stillness and reflection.

### Structure of Collective Worship

Collective Worship consistently follows a clear and recognisable structure, enabling pupils to participate confidently and independently:

1. *Gather* – pupils gather quietly and reverently, with appropriate music or a focal point
2. *Word* – Scripture is proclaimed, explored or dramatised, allowing pupils to encounter the Word of God
3. *Response* – pupils reflect, pray, sing, offer intentions or engage in silent prayer



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4. *Mission* – pupils are invited to respond by living out the Gospel message in daily life

This structure supports pupils in developing understanding, reverence and active engagement, as required by CSI.

### **Forms of Collective Worship**

#### *Whole-School Collective Worship*

Led by the Headteacher, this focuses on the Sunday Gospel. Pupils listen, reflect, discuss and respond actively through drama, prayer and silence. Each act of worship includes a clear mission, encouraging pupils to live the Gospel message beyond the assembly.

#### *Class Collective Worship*

In class settings, pupils reflect on Catholic Virtues, Catholic Social Teaching, Scripture and current events. Worship is sometimes teacher-led and, increasingly, planned and led by pupils, demonstrating growing confidence, independence and ownership.

#### *Themed Assemblies*

Usually held mid-week and led by staff or pupils, themes include Saints' Days, liturgical seasons, school virtues, national events, British Values and Catholic Social Teaching. Themes are carefully chosen in consultation with the Headteacher and RE Lead to ensure coherence and relevance.

#### *Achievement Assemblies*

Weekly Celebration Assemblies affirm pupils' achievements across academic, social, sporting and personal development. Headteacher awards recognise pupils who live out the school's Catholic Virtues, reinforcing the link between faith and action. Assemblies begin and end prayerfully.

#### *House Assemblies*

Pupils belong to houses named after St David, St Andrew, St Patrick and St George. Houses meet half-termly to explore virtues and the lives of their patron saints. Each house plans and leads a whole-school assembly around its feast day, strengthening pupil leadership and participation.

#### *Christian Meditation*

All pupils and staff participate in regular Christian Meditation, a contemplative form of prayer that enables silence, stillness and awareness of God's loving presence. Meditation takes place daily at the start of the afternoon unless replaced by whole-school worship.

A consistent format is used across the school, incorporating music, a mantra and a period of silence. This practice supports pupils' emotional wellbeing, self-awareness and spiritual growth, deepening their relationship with God.

### **Mass and the Liturgical Life of the Church**

Pupils regularly attend Holy Mass at Our Lady Queen of the Martyrs Church, strengthening the relationship between school and parish. Each class attends Parish Mass on a rota basis, and the whole school attends Mass on Holy Days of Obligation.



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## **Celebrating the Liturgical Year**

Collective Worship reflects the Liturgical Year, ensuring pupils understand and engage with the seasons and feasts of the Church.

- Advent and Christmas – Nativity performances, class assemblies and prayerful reflection
- Lent – Stations of the Cross and opportunities for repentance and reflection
- October and May – focus on the Rosary, including a May Procession
- Easter – celebration of the Resurrection through worship and song

Prayer groups and reflective activities deepen pupils' spiritual engagement during key seasons.

## **Examen and Prayer Areas**

At the end of each day, pupils are invited to take part in the Examen, reflecting prayerfully on their day, thanking God and asking for His guidance.

Each classroom has a designated prayer area, reflecting the liturgical season or RE topic. These interactive spaces enable pupils to engage in spontaneous prayer and group reflection throughout the day.

## **Impact**

The impact of Collective Worship at Our Lady's School is clear, measurable and transformative, fully meeting the CSI Outstanding Catholic Life descriptors.

As a result of high-quality, regular and inclusive Collective Worship:

- pupils participate reverently, confidently and willingly
- pupils demonstrate a growing understanding of prayer, Scripture and liturgy
- pupils increasingly plan and lead acts of worship, showing independence and ownership
- pupils reflect thoughtfully on their lives and actions in the light of the Gospel
- pupils demonstrate respect, compassion and responsibility in relationships

Collective Worship has a positive and visible impact on pupils' spiritual, moral and emotional development. Pupils understand that prayer and worship are not separate from daily life but shape how they live, act and relate to others.

Through collective prayer, reflection and responding to the Gospel, pupils grow as followers of Jesus Christ, enabling them to "have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Collective Worship strengthens the Catholic ethos of the school, fosters a strong sense of community, and supports pupils in recognising God's presence in their lives, now and in the future.



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This policy is available on the school website:

[Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and Nursery](#)

Paper copies are available on request from the School Office