

# 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 Policy

Approved by:	Governing Body
Last reviewed on:	Date: January 2026
Next review date:	Date: January 2028

## **Intent**

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school celebrates God's presence in our lives. It 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, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff to:

- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- respond to and celebrate life
- experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- develop a common ethos and shared values
- enrich religious experience
- grow in liturgical understanding and development
- reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate fully
- take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

## **Implementation**

Collective Worship at Our Lady's School provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. We always endeavour to provide quality experiences of prayer and liturgy that support pupils' spiritual development and help each individual in the school community to foster their own relationship with God. These communal acts of prayer and the liturgical celebrations of the Church form part of everyday life in our school.

### **Collective Worship Times**

We gather together at different times throughout the week:-

Monday – Whole school assembly led by Headteacher with the focus on the Sunday Gospel

Tuesday – Class Collective Worship – pupil and teacher led focused on Religious theme such as virtues, values, Scripture

Wednesday – Singing Hymns or Assembly with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching or British Values

Thursday – Class Collective Worship and RSE

Friday – Celebration Assembly

Woven into our Catholic Life and Collective Worship is guided meditation, silent medication and spontaneous prayer.

Collective Worship follows these four stages:

Gather: pupils gather together in their place of worship, in a quiet and dignified manner and appropriate music will be played

Word: pupils listen to, act out or watch a story from scripture or share and discuss the teaching Jesus gave us

Response: pupils take part in a litany, song, prayer or ask for prayers and have some reflective time

Mission: pupils take a message and be asked to put it into their everyday life.

### **Whole School Collective Worship**

At the start of the week, the Headteacher leads the Collective Worship, focusing on the message of the Gospel from Sunday Mass.

Pupils are encouraged to listen to and respond to the Gospel message. They are invited to discuss, take an active role in acting out Bible stories or respond to the message of the Gospel.

They are given a mission to live out the message in their everyday life.

Children are given opportunities to worship in silent prayer, reflecting on the message of the Gospel.

### **Class Collective Worship**

In classes children are given time to pray and reflect on the term's Catholic Virtues, Catholic Social Teaching, read Bible stories or discuss any current affairs. Sometimes Class Collective Worship is planned and led by the teacher, on other occasions it will be planned by the pupils using prayer resources or children's own ideas.

### **Themed Assemblies**

The Themed Assemblies, usually on a Wednesday, are led by different members of staff or by class teachers with their classes or key stages. The theme is chosen in consultation with the R.E. Co-ordinator, the Headteacher and other colleagues. Themes include School Virtues, Saints' Days, national events, the Liturgical seasons, British Values and scripture readings and Catholic Social Teaching.

### **Achievement Assemblies**

Every Friday afternoon, a celebration of achievement takes place with certificates awarded to children who have made achievements in a variety of ways, academic, sporting, good manners, good role models, and special talents. Headteacher awards are presented for children living out the Catholic Virtues. The children are encouraged to use the talents that God has given them. Assemblies start and finish in a prayerful atmosphere.

### **House Assemblies**

The children in the school are divided into four houses, named after St. David, St Andrews, St Patrick and St George. Houses gather together half termly to worship and look at the Virtues from the 'School Profile' and consider how they as a house might put the virtues into their everyday life. They will also celebrate and learn about the life of the Saint. Each house will lead a whole school assembly around their feast day, which the children will plan and lead.

## **Christian Meditation**

All pupils and staff in Our Lady's School take part in regular Christian Meditation sessions. Meditation is a form of prayer which allows the pupils a chance to be silent and experience God's love in silence. Meditation leads to increased self-knowledge and self-acceptance and deepens their personal relationship with God.

We hold our Meditation sessions across the school at the start of each afternoon unless we gather for the whole school Collective Worship. Each class uses the same format - using music, a mantra and have a period of silence.

## **Liturgy – Holy Mass**

Pupils also attend our parish church (Our Lady Queen of the Martyrs) to celebrate Mass with our parishioners, in order to further help their understanding of the richness of the Eucharist. Each class attends Parish Mass on a rota basis. The whole school also attends Mass for Holy Days of Obligation.

## **Celebrating the Liturgical Calendar**

At Our Lady's School we take the time to celebrate the seasons of the Liturgical Year. We spend time in our R.E lessons looking at the events in the liturgical calendar and we celebrate many of them together through collective worship. During important celebrations of the liturgical calendar we hold prayer groups or other activities to encourage the life in prayer and spiritual reflection.

During the months of October and May the children focus on the Rosary. They are invited to pray the Rosary. In May, the children take part in a May procession.

During the season of Lent, children are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross, which are in prominently displayed in our School Hall.

The season of Christmas invites many opportunities for the pupils to reflect on the miracle of the Birth of Jesus through Nativity performances, class Christmas assemblies, Christmas story trail and others that encourage active participation through collective worship.

## **Examen**

At the end of the day, the children are invited to 'examen' their thoughts and reflect on their day. They talk to God and thank him for the support and guidance he has shown and ask his continue love and support.

## **Prayer Areas**

There are designated prayer areas, which are inviting and allow the children to partake in prayer groups and spontaneous prayer. Each class has a prayer area which reflects the liturgical season or topic in Religion. These are interactive and allow children to pray during the school day.

## **Impact**

Pupils at Our Lady's School are thoughtful and respectful. They fully take part in all acts of worship. They understand that through collective prayer, reflection and living out the Gospel

of Christ, they become followers of Jesus which enables them to “*have life and have it to the full.*” Jn. 10v10.