St. Wilfrid's Catholic (VA) Primary School and Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale
Collective worship in St Wilfrid's School, whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character and will have Christ at its heart. It will reflect the tradition of the Church and its belief in the Trinity.

Aims
To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship through listening and joining in the worship offered.

To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Objectives
Through the year, the pupils will experience celebrations in St Wilfrid's Church, the school hall, the classroom and the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Celebrations will reflect thanksgiving, feast days, the church's seasons, and special occasions and will address the emotions and feelings of young people such as joy, friendship, sadness, loneliness, anger etc.

Celebrations will sometimes be open to families, parishioners and the local community.

Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God and we hope that our acts of worship will be restive, friendly and prayerful, with participants gaining positive feelings from the experience.

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement; it is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of our school's overall provision for prayer and worship. The worship in school is **Collective Worship.**

The following guidelines provide a framework for the Collective Worship that takes place in St Wilfrid's School.

Collective Worship – What?

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Collective worship at St Wilfrid's School is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It 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
- Those with no faith background

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

- To reflect on personal belief
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To develop community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To respond and celebrate life

Collective Worship – Who?
Pupils have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship
Staff will plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day
Parents will be invites to participate in some Collective Worship
Headteacher's role is to ensure that Collective worship is provided for each child every day.
Governors have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consultation with the Headteacher and staff.

Collective Worship – When?
Legislation does not require Collective Worship to take place at a specific time. It need not occur at the beginning of the day, but rather at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

Collective Worship – Where?

'Living the Gospel in the spirit of Love and Respect'

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'Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them.'
(Matthew 18:20)

As a rule, all acts of Collective worship should take place on the school premises. However the Governing Bodies of Aided Schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions. (Education Reform Act 1988)

Collective Worship – How?
Collective Worship should provide a variety of experience which:

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors
- Can be offered for a small group of children (Rosary in October and May, Lunchtime Refection in Advent and Lent) Class, Key Stage or Whole School
- Uses a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama
- Provides a focus using candles, symbols, artefacts and lighting
- Respects the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensures the possibility of conscious, active participation of all those present
- Sets an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion
- Ensures the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and abilities of the pupils

Collective Worship should be planned with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the Curriculum.
It should also be planned with reference to the school's aims and policies and with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

Conclusion
The experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Such values will be explored, celebrated and reflected upon in Collective Worship in a manner that complements the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos of the school.

Resources
Liverpool Archdiocesan Inspection Documentation
'Wednesday Word'
Spiritual Garments a handbook for preparing liturgical assemblies in schools - Julie McCann
Pax Christi Bethlehem Crib set – Travelling Crib in Advent