

All Saints Catholic College



Collective Worship (Liturgy) Policy

Approved by Governors: January 2012

Reviewed by Governors: 23rd May 2018

Review date: May 2019

All Saints Catholic College

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

At All Saints, our mission statement states ' We are a Catholic community dedicated to providing an excellent education to all of our pupils so that they fulfil their ambitions and exceed their expectations.

We work together as a family through mutual respect so that everyone succeeds academically and grows spiritually.'

As such we are dedicated to providing an excellent education to all students that develops the whole child and gives them a spiritual experience and understanding that is embedded throughout their school life and which allows them to grow in their faith.

In our College we seek to nurture this spiritual development within the college and good preparation of appropriate involvement within the Mass and Liturgy.

Aims of Collective Worship

Catholic Life at All Saints should be central to the life of the school and a feature of every school celebration. Acts of Collective Worship, therefore, should be embedded within this and should be inclusive, educational and spiritual.

Worship should be relevant to pupils' experience, involve them as participants and foster a sense of community within the school. Collective worship reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church, whilst taking into account the spiritual and education needs of all who share in it. In line with [DfE/OFSTED](#) guidance, we aim to support pupils with different religious beliefs in their prayer rituals.

Worship should be linked to curricular activities and allow pupils opportunities to reflect on the educational aims of our school and should provide opportunities for individual reflection in an atmosphere conducive to the consideration of the transcendent and sense of mystery. Ultimately, collective worship should be meaningful.

Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into practice with the duty to serve echoed in the college motto of 'Be Inspired, Be Excellent, Succeed'.

The role of the Chaplaincy Team

At All Saints we believe that worship is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour and praise to God. It is our loving response in word and action to God's invitation to enter into a relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical life of the college is organised and monitored by the second in RE, with support from the Head of RE and Senior Team, who plan and arrange liturgies

together with the local clergy, where possible. A [weekly set of daily prayers prayer file](#), is provided, to assist tutors in leading Collective Worship. This ~~file~~ contains prayers and reflections related to [everyday life/ events and the the](#) liturgical year.

The religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in worship are also taken into consideration, when acts of Collective Worship are planned.

Designated staff, principally the Second in RE, are also responsible for developing a programme of retreats to be made accessible for identified year groups as well as working with Heads of Year and organising events that give students the opportunity to show service to others through acts of charity.

Daily Prayers

'Prayer, worship and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition. It is of prime importance, however, that sound educational and pastoral principles determine the ways in which these are experienced in the school community'

Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Roman Catholic School, Third Ed. 1994, CES

The college day begins with prayer, which is central to our life and work in this Catholic College. At All Saints, we believe that our community can be made distinctive by:

- praying with students;
- helping students to reflect on their prayers;
- encourage students to create their own prayer
- enable students to participate in the liturgy;
- foster a quiet and prayerful environment;
- celebrate prayer and learning through assemblies;
- participate in staff prayer (including a rota involving all staff for whole staff briefings);
- working with the parish communities;
- sharing with students in Eucharistic and other liturgical celebrations.

A [weekly set of daily prayers prayer file](#) is available to all teachers with liturgical prayers and reflections highlighted. With these prayers to hand, staff are expected to lead prayers at the beginning and end of each day with additional time being afforded during Academic Review.

School Masses

We aim to organise school masses at various times of the year, but this is dependent on the availability of local priests. The prayers, readings, music and various liturgical presentations are organised by identified staff in conjunction with the local clergy, who continue to support the liturgical life of the school.

School Liturgies

There are occasions when it is more suitable to organise a non-eucharistic or para-liturgical services. Once again, identified staff will prepare an appropriate liturgy, often assisted by other departments but crucially, involving a group made up of students.

Year Group Collective Assemblies

A school Collective Worship rota is produced each year that includes acts of collective worship (traditionally called assembly) organised by Senior Leaders, Heads of Year, or Form Groups. This rota follows the liturgical calendar (which includes all the main feast of the Church's calendar) and themes are calendarised to assist those leading the respective assemblies.

In line with recent OFSTED guidance on collective worship, our aim is for these assemblies to become more pupil-led in both planning and delivery.

Every Collective Worship Assembly, where possible, assembly will follow the following routine:

- Students line up in form groups on the main yard. At this point students should be prepared for the occasion and be respectful. Uniform should be checked here and any issues resolved. Form Tutors should register students and should check any uniform infractions
- ~~The Head of Year should stand on the step over looking the students checking for uniform issues and ensuring students are silent~~
- The SLT member assigned for that day should be at the front of the hall ensuring students are silent and respectful
- Students enter the main hall in silence and sit in silence awaiting the rest of the year group.
- Students are to stand and are instructed to correct uniform
- Students are greeted with good morning and respond
- The College mantra is given and students repeat
- All give the sign of the Sign of Cross, Opening Prayer or Prayer
- Students are asked to be seated
- Exploration of Religious Theme as indicated by the Collective Worship rota for the year
- Reference to scripture and the College core values
- Closing Prayer
- Sign of the Cross
- Notices/Awards (Tutors should take a register as notices are shared)
- If Notices/Awards are likely to detract from the purpose of the assembly, be used as a means of disciplining students or cause the Assembly to overrun, these should be delivered in Form Period

The format of Collective Worship should be as follows:

ENTRY

- The Head of Year is present in the hall to receive students, and supervise and control their entry and exit.

- The Assistant Head, assigned to that day, is present to assist with supervision and standards (uniform and silent entry).
- Students must enter the Hall in silence and in full correct uniform

ATMOSPHERE (Environment)

- The person with responsibility for leading each assembly should pay particular attention to creating an inspiring atmosphere conducive to prayer/reflection/worship – a sense of awe (a focal point, use of Music/Lighting/Word Focus/ Quotations etc....)

PLANNING

- The Assembly should be thoroughly planned and prepared (use of imaginative resources).

THEME

- The Theme should help students explore The Liturgical year/College Values/ Celebrate our Students achievements; Gifts and Talents. The general themes for each week are published in the staff handbook each year
- **WHAT MESSAGE DO I WANT STUDENTS TO TAKE AWAY?**
- Use appropriate scripture where possible
- Make sure you open opportunities for student response.

ENGAGEMENT & RESPONSE

- Students act with reverence & respect
- Students are inspired
- Students participate enthusiastically.
- Students are challenged to put the teaching into practice.

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