

Ursuline Catholic Primary

Policy for Collective Worship

What Collective Worship is

At Ursuline we believe that God is present and active in all authentic human experience. We already have a graced life and worship is naming and celebrating this reality in the Christian tradition. God is reached through the world and adored within it. Creating a sacred space for worship is to create a space where the unity of God and creation is reverently symbolised and celebrated. Worship and the words and rituals we use should not sever us from the ordinary circumstances of our lives but rather unite us more closely to them.

- Worship remembers and celebrates the marvellous things God works in our lives. It celebrates God's presence in our lives. Worship should not feel like an interruption from a different world. It is a spontaneous response to life.
- Collective Worship 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.
- Worship is at the very heart of our school and reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others may form part of an act of worship.

All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To reflect on personal issues
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development

- To reinforce prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles of Collective Worship

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
 - Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
 - Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a taken way
 - Give pupils positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church.
- In order to do this celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience - Reception in classes; Y1 & 2; Y3 & 4 and Y5 & 6 when in Hall
- Be short and appropriately pace, one minute for each year of child's age as a guideline, ie KS1 5-6 minutes, KS2 7-10 minutes.
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings, such as class, Hall, Eco-Garden

Refer to the Archdiocese Collective Worship 'Guidance for schools' and 'Come and See' pages 28 - 32 for further guidance.

Resources for Collective Worship

In order to facilitate Collective Worship in the Classroom all classes have:

- A candle
- A cloth
- A crucifix or cross
- A rosary
- 'God's Story' (edition appropriate to the year group)
- A petition book

Websites of interest:

- www.cafod.org.uk/primary
- www.bbc.co.uk/religion (provides helpful information on various feasts and festivals)
- www.assemblies.org.uk
- www.missiontogether.org.uk

- www.thetablet.co.uk
- www.catholicculture.or
- www.liturgyoffice.org (has a brief, but helpful cycle of prayer)
- www.countmeincalendar.co.uk
- www.interfaith.org.nz (provides helpful information on various feasts and festivals)

Monitoring and evaluation

Collective Worship will be part of the school's Observation and Monitoring programme.