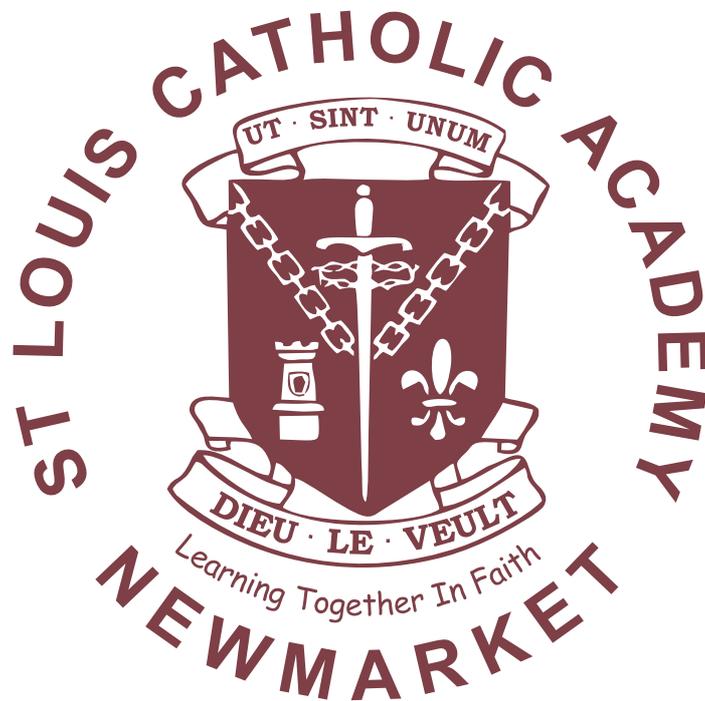


St Louis Catholic Academy

“Learning Together in Faith”

Collective Worship Policy



2015 - 2018

Date approved	10th February 2015
Signed	Mrs J Whipp (Chair of Governors)
Minuted	10th February 2015
Date of next review	February 2018

St Louis Catholic Academy Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

St Louis is a caring, Catholic school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centred curriculum, which develops independent learning. An environment is provided where children are encouraged to love to learn and learn to love.

Aims:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.
- Through WITNESS, to celebrate Gospel messages of justice and peace

Introduction:

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school 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.

Legal Requirements:

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School:

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship 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, or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray in the morning, at lunchtime and in the evening.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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 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 that are part of the Catholic tradition
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Principles:

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
- Give children 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 simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
- Based around a simple model such as GERS (www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org) or the Eucharist.

In order to achieve the above, Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday – Whole School Celebration assembly led by Head centred round Gospel readings and celebrating achievements in and out of school. Parents welcome.

Tuesday – Whole school assembly based on liturgical year and significant World Faith events led by Deputy Head

Wednesday – KS1 / KS2 alternate assemblies based on liturgical year and Diocesan Values programme.

Thursday – Whole School Assembly based on significant World Faith events and Diocesan Values programme.

Friday – Hymn Practice

Planning:

Collective Worship in this school is planned following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, The Diocesan Values, significant World Faith events and the curriculum.

- Scripture will be the focus for most acts of worship
- It will relate to the school community in the light of the school's aims and Mission

- There will be flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- We will aim to teach children the skills to enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- Collective Worship will be marked by gathering, engaging, responding and sending forth.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

Resources:

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally in the hall or for Mass outside the Head's office and are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning.

Eucharist:

Eucharist celebrations form a very important part in our Collective Worship strategy. Opportunities for children to participate are maximised and parents and other members of the school and Parish communities are encouraged to attend.

The celebrations will take the following forms:

- Whole school masses
- Class Masses and Liturgies
- Key Stage Liturgies
- Weekly Opportunities during Lent for KS2 to attend parish Mass.
- The whole school will also take part in the Mass on Holy Days of obligation if they occur in school time at OLISE Church.
- School Led Masses on a Sunday in the Parish once a term.

Other Collective Worship Celebrations:

St Louis also celebrates the following occasions in a manner which reflects their importance to our community and school traditions:

- Seder Meal
- Easter Breakfast
- Pentecost
- Advent Service
- Carol Service

Children will be prepared for the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, usually during Y3 within the parish of OLISE with the support of school as Catechists. Special Sunday Masses are arranged for these children to participate in. A Reconciliation service for this group is supported by the parents and school. First Holy Communion services are a community celebration led by St Louis.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors