Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Nursery & Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

September 2017
Review date: September 2019
MISSION STATEMENT

At O.L.O.L we LIVE, LOVE, LEARN.

INTRODUCTION

This policy is one in a series that makes up the ‘Whole Curriculum’ Statement for the school and addresses the Every Child Matters agenda. This policy states the school’s philosophy on how Collective Worship will make a contribution to our pupil’s education.

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. Our Collective Worship actively contributes towards our spiritual and moral development, as a Christian community.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We also acknowledge that Collective Worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education.

Inclusion

At Our Lady of Lourdes we recognise our responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all out pupils. All aspects of the curriculum reflect the three principles essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum.

- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Responding to pupils’ diverse learning needs.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

AIMS

Collective Worship within Our Lady of Lourdes offers opportunities:

- to consider and celebrate the values of the gospels.
- to enrich religious experience.
- to offer opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer.
- to experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself.
- to encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community.
- to foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation.
- to affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community.
- to develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning.
• to explore social, moral and spiritual values.
• to explore our own beliefs.
• to develop a common ethos and shared values.
• to grow in liturgical understanding and development.
• to reinforce prayers that are part of the Catholic tradition.

PRINCIPLES

All acts of Collective Worship should:
• 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, acts of worship will be:

• kept small wherever possible or appropriate to personalise the experience.
• short and appropriately paced.
• simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.
• related to the age, ability and background of pupils.
• designed to actively engage pupils and elicit a response.
• resourced and planned.
• memorable and enjoyable.
• an educational activity.
• flexible and able to respond to special occasions.

CO-ORDINATION

The Head teacher and R.E. subject leader organise the Collective Worship programme, establishing a pattern of themes for each week of the school year and creating a rota for production of brief support materials for classroom prayer. It is appropriate for the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher to link weekly assemblies to the current theme.

ORGANISATION

Assembly

A weekly assembly is held for pupils on Mondays in appropriate phase groups and on Fridays a celebratory Star of the Week assembly, incorporating an act of worship takes place. The Senior Leadership Team delivers many of these assemblies, usually taking the theme allocated for the week. Within each assembly there is a clear distinction made between the worship and practical aspects of the assembly.

Class Worship

On those days when pupils do not have an assembly the class teacher facilitates a daily act of worship based on the theme for the week. This act of worship takes place for approximately 5/10 minutes at a time appropriate for each class. These times are not prescriptive across year groups or key stages. The children take an active role in planning, preparing and leading their
worship for their classmates, making full use of the Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth format as recommended by the Christian Education department of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

**Weekly themes**

At the start of each term a plan of themes for that term is established. These themes link with the liturgical year of the church and explore major Gospel and life themes, festivals, beliefs and charity events.

It should be noted that there will be times when the theme is wholly inappropriate - times of celebration or of disaster or tragedy should be explored in worship as they arise.

**Class Prayer**

Every week, each class teacher will receive a number of ideas for Collective Worship linked with the given theme, to be used as a starting point. These will be prepared on a rota basis by each member of staff, differentiated (where appropriate) for Foundation, Key stages 1 and 2, and should help support the class teacher with Collective Worship. These sheets are not intended to be prescriptive. Ideally they should be used as a source of ideas or as a framework upon which to develop worship that is appropriate and relevant to the particular teacher and class.

Ideas are prepared for both key stages.

Each class is provided with a planning board following the same general format: Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth.

Guided by their teacher, the children plan:

- how they will gather for worship,
- which scripture will be listened to,
- how pupils in class will respond to what they have heard and
- how they will go forth with what they have learnt.

**Prayer Table and Focus Displays**

A special area is set-aside in each classroom. A prayer table or prayer area is intended to act as a focus for pupils during times of worship. A special focus may be displayed for the week's theme, or a crucifix, candle or other artifact may be used as a centering object during prayer. Often a focal display is prepared by the children on the carpet, in the middle of the circle, where the children can gather to worship.

**Resources**

Each year group is provided with a copy of "The Lion Handbook of Prayers" and each teacher a copy of “God’s Story” and “Church’s Story” appropriate to the age of the children. In addition there is a collection of stories, readings and prayers that will be a source of ideas for class teachers in the school Collective Worship File. Each class is provided with a display box including a series of drapes in liturgical colours and items relevant to displaying a focus area. A selection of Scripture including more commonly known references is available for use by the children when selecting what will be listened to each day.
Pupil Involvement

Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the preparation, planning and delivery of acts of worship both in assemblies, in the Rejoice section of ‘Come and See’ and in class groups. The planning resources provided by the Christian Education team are used throughout school.

Parental Involvement

We involve parents by inviting them to special year group assemblies, services and annual nativity plays, carol concerts and the Stations of the Cross enactment. Class teachers also invite parents and carers to ‘Stay and Pray’.

Recording and Evaluation

Teachers are asked to make a copy of the children’s involvement in planning acts of worship by either completing and copying a planning sheet and/or making a copy of their planning board, taking photographs or asking the children to evaluate its success. Pupils will be encouraged to give their input and comments.

Conclusion

Prayer and worship is central to our Christian life. Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide pupils with experiences of Collective Worship that are relevant, appropriate and life giving.

REVIEW AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

This policy is reviewed biennially in consultation with staff. Following this review recommendations are made for the development of Collective Worship.

We will improve the quality of provision and outcomes for Collective Worship by:

- Providing continually updates in training to ensure planning and delivery of Collective Worship are undertaken consistently throughout the school using the guidance provided by the Archdiocese advisory team.

- Enabling pupils to plan, prepare and lead Collective Worship from their earliest years.

- Evidencing Collective Worship opportunities through the use of class scrapbooks.