



St Peter & St Paul
Catholic Voluntary Academy
Pro Petro Paulo Patria

Policy Document
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RE and Collective Worship Policy

Policy Ref No. PRE 01

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

*"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.
Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.
We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."*

Christ is the foundation of everything we do and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions we aim to prepare young people for a life working with others in communities which maybe diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community.

The education of all

We have the duty of care for all to ensure that we provide for those who are socially, academically, physically, emotionally or financially disadvantaged.

Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

Any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and required to support them;

Children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them;

All of our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject in any way to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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Introduction

We believe that Collective worship in a Catholic Academy is concerned with the revelation of God's presence so that praise, honour, glory and thanksgiving may be given to Him, the Almighty. Collective worship should be at the heart of this Eucharistic community who come together as witnesses in Christ. It is through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that we are invited to enter into a loving relationship with Him. Collective worship is this community's response to that invitation.

Legal Requirements and Provision for Act of Collective Worship

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in academy groups. *We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said by either a member of staff or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. 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.

Subsequent to the 2006 Education and Inspection Act the situation in relation to all student post formal school leaving age in school or college if they are beyond the leaving age is:

- (1) Section 71 of SSFA 1998 (which, in relation to religious education and attendance at religious worship, makes provision for exceptions and special arrangements and for special schools) is amended as follows.
 - (1a) if the parent of any pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school/academy other than a sixth form pupil requests that he / she may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.
 - (1b) if a sixth form student requests that he / she may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school/academy, the pupil shall be so excused.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be considered as part of the Religious Education lesson (for time purposes).

Definitions

Liturgy

Liturgy literally means 'work of the people' and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship at the heart of which it is symbol and action.

Prayer

One of the Early Church Fathers described prayer as "the raising of one's mind and heart to God or requesting of good things from God".

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a loving relationship with Himself, made possible through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and witness of the Holy Spirit.

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Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our Academy

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share and participate in it:

- i) Those who form part of the worshipping community
- ii) Those for whom academy may be their first and only experience of church
- iii) Those from other Christian backgrounds
- iv) Those from other world faith backgrounds
- v) Those from other backgrounds who are admitted to the academy under the categories agreed by the Governing Body as the admission authority

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

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

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our academy community will provide a variety of opportunities to deepen our relationships with God and develop the following:

- i) To contemplate the mystery of God
- ii) To unite our worshipping Eucharistic community
- iii) To enrich the religious experience and the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils
- iv) To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- v) To explore and reflect on their own beliefs and value systems and reflect upon their own faith journey
- vi) To respond and celebrate life
- vii) To develop a common ethos and shared value system
- viii) To grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills
- ix) To develop a sense of wonder, awe and inspiration in the person of Christ
- x) To develop and reinforce the skills of prayer
- xi) To reinforce positive attitudes

Implementation / Principles

All acts of worship should:

- i) Give glory and praise to God
- ii) Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the academy and its Catholic character
- iii) 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:

- i) Be structured to ensure a quality experience for all participants
- ii) Be clear in their liturgical focus and varied in their delivery

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- iii) Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help personalise the experience
- iv) Be short and appropriately paced (attention span lasts with any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life)
- v) Be reflective, engaging, and clear, using a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Collective Worship in our school may follow the pattern outlined below (or a variation on it):

Gathering

How we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet / reflective music, lighted candles, statues, cross, focus and examination of conscience etc.)

Word

Reading from Scripture (or another suitable source), breaking the word / time down to reflect on this and prayers to fit the theme

Action

Ritual movement that everyone can join in with that fits with the theme (gestures such as shaking hands, holding hands, lighting a candle, prayers, responses to prayers etc.)

Mission

Sending out from the celebration, giving the pupils something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives

Policy Monitoring and Review

Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to collective worship, taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the School Standard Framework 1998.

It is the overall responsibility of Governors, in consultation with the Head teacher, to ensure that the legal requirements are met and opportunities for quality collective worship are being delivered. Those responsible will ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the school's trust deed and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

This policy is monitored by the collective worship co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed every two years. Governors should review reports on the prayer life of the school. This will form part of the Head teacher's report to the Governors.

The following will be monitored:

- i) Time set aside for collective worship
- ii) Whether the observed practice is consistent with the agreed policy
- iii) Whether collective worship is resourced in terms of materials, visual aids etc.
- iv) Staff development on collective worship and its impact
- v) Prayer focus and its effectiveness in drawing pupils into prayer
- vi) Impact on the pupils and members of the academy community

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- vii) Opportunities for pupils to develop the necessary skills to access worship and prayer
- viii) Records of themes and teachings of the Catholic Church covered in collective worship

Recording

Collective worship is recorded:

- i) On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- ii) Through displays, collections of pupil’s contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.

Collective Worship Provision

Activity	When	Who	Led By	Location
End of Day prayer	Daily	All Years	All lesson 6 Staff	Classroom
Staff Briefing prayer	Daily	All Staff	Head teacher	Staffroom
SSPP Day Mass	29 June	All Years	Bernadette House	SSPP Church
Remembrance Service	11 November	All Years	Hugh House	SSPP Church
Stations of the Cross	Easter	Years 7 and 11	RE Dept.	School Grounds
New Year Mass	September	All Years	Member of SLT	SSPP Church
Education Sunday Mass	February	30-40 pupils	Member of SLT	SSPP Church
Christmas Liturgy	December	All Years	Hugh House	SSPP Church
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Advent and Lent	All Years	Member of SLT	SSPP School
Ash Wednesday Mass	Lent	All Years	Member of SLT	SSPP Church
Year 11 Leavers Service	June	Year 11	Member of SLT	SSPP Church
Year 13 Leavers Service	July	Year 13	Member of SLT	English Block
Festival of Light	December	All Years	Member of SLT	SSPP Church

St Peter and St Paul, Catholic Voluntary Academy’s current Retreats / Pilgrimage / Visits Provision.

It is understood that collective worship will take place at some point during the time spent on the following occasions

Activity	When	Who	Led By	Location
Rome Pilgrimage	February	9-15 pupils	Subject Leader	Rome

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			of RE	
Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage	July	Year 12 and 13	Chaplain	Lourdes
Holocaust Memorial	January	Year 12 and 13	Subject Leader of RE	Laxton

Assembly Provision

Activity	When	Who	Led By	Location
School Assembly	Weekly	All Years	Staff and Pupils	SSPP Church
House Assembly	Weekly	All Years	Staff and Pupils	School Hall