



Happy in His
loving care



St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy Collective Worship Policy

Date:	February 2024
To be reviewed:	2 Years
Policy Holder	Head teacher

Mission Statement

We consider ourselves a big happy family that is welcoming, caring and successful. Our school is a place where we show mutual respect, understanding and tolerance of all people in the world, and where we take responsibility for our actions. It is a place where self-belief and confidence are nurtured but, most of all, a place where we live out our virtues and keep Christ at the centre of everything we do.

We are Happy in His Loving Care.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. When we celebrate through Collective Worship we give glory, honour, praise and thanks 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.

*Collective Worship offers all schools the chance to explore and understand the values at the heart of their ethos.
...Setting time aside in the school day for reflection provides everyone with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.*

CES: Why is Collective Worship important?

Legal Requirements

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 school groups. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that liturgical prayer and collective worship 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 included under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

At St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy, responsibility for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher and RE subject lead.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. However, given the importance of Collective Worship in a Catholic school, parents and prospective parents will be made aware of the fact that it can never be confined to 'timetabled slots' but may take place in a variety of contexts other than those which are specifically structured, within the Come and See RE curriculum.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy

Collective Worship in St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the daily Catholic tradition.

Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it, including:

- 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;
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy aims to provide opportunities for all pupils and staff:

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

All acts of worship in St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Enable pupils to develop skills so that they can prepare, organise and lead worship;
- 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.
- Celebrations will be appropriate to the age and groupings of the children.

Planning, content and celebration

At St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy Collective Worship themes are planned following the Church's seasons/Liturgical Year, Come and See, current virtue, Word of the Week, feast days, the curriculum and significant dates, for example Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week and The Harvest and they may be guided by the Bishop's Spiritual theme. All Collective Worship follows the same sequence: gather, Word, response and mission. A variety of prayer styles will be used appropriate to the age of the children and the occasion. Parish and parents are invited to participate in celebrations wherever possible.

The timetable of Collective Worship is below.

Day	Format/Lead	Information
Monday	9:05 – Whole School Hymn Worship LC/DS/KM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise God through learning new hymns and revisiting older ones.
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	To be decided upon by class timetable teachers but MUST include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a pupil led Celebration of the Word session an adult led Celebration of the Word session 	<p>Pupil Led Celebration of the Word Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed planning format should be used every time. (Children should complete). 'Let Us Pray 2' resources should be used as a basis to plan where appropriate. Must be timetabled weekly but should not last longer than 15 minutes. Must be evaluated by children weekly using the agreed evaluation sheet. <p>Adult Celebration of the Word Led Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should take place in morning 'Prayer Time' (i.e. should take a similar amount of time.) 'Theme' should be based on Ordo/'Extra Ordo Nary' word of the week/current virtue or class need (i.e.. Children are constantly falling out with one another – something on friendship getting along. Children are lying- honesty being truthful.) These should be evaluated by the children at least twice a term, at appropriate points, determined by teacher, using the evaluation sheet.
Friday	10:00 – Whole School Celebration of the Word DS/KM/Chaplaincy Team/Other member of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on current virtue/ Bishop's Pastoral Priorities/ Ordo/'Extra Ordo Nary' word of the week/current school need. Agreed planning format should be used every time. Should be evaluated by children weekly using agreed evaluation forms. Class candles should be presented unless instructed otherwise.

Throughout the year, this timetable may change, for example, during Advent and Lent the school holds reflection days to highlight the extra importance of these key times in the Churches liturgical year.

Our School Chaplaincy Team take responsibility for our whole school Liturgical Prayer at least once every half term.

Children use the 'See, Hear, Think, Do' planning grid and are supported by the Let Us Pray 2gether resources. As in all liturgies, the child-led liturgy follows the standard sequence: gather, Word, response, mission. After leading the liturgical prayer, the children keep a record of this in their class Collective Worship folder. Children participate in an evaluation session in order to create further depth and opportunities next time their turn to plan comes around. Roles and expectations of the children when planning collective worship. We follow the suggested NCDYS Liturgical Prayer Progression document for child led liturgical prayer.

In summary, children should be able to:

EYFS	Create a prayerful focus ready for the liturgy, choosing appropriate items to display (from a selection prepared by the teacher).
Key Stage 1	Give clear reasons for the items they have chosen to display on the prayer space focus. Select an appropriate reading (from a selected set). Be involved in choosing the music Follow the 'gather, Word, response and mission' with support. Ideas may be brief and may require the facilitator to expand upon them.
Key Stage 2	Plan a well sequenced liturgy, including all essential aspects. Develop greater creativity, particularly within the 'gather' and 'response' section, as they progress through KS2. Select meaningful biblical extracts, carefully linked to the theme. Consider and make links with the school's wider community and parish. Make links with current affairs and the Bishop's themes of encounter, discipleship and missionary discipleship wherever possible.

Children should always be supported during the liturgical prayer planning process to ensure they achieve the desired level of depth and experience.

Staff prayer

Staff prayer takes place before meetings and during staff training days. The focus of the prayer depends upon the time of year or focus of the training.

Recording

Class liturgical prayer takes place weekly and planning sheets are kept by the class teacher. More detailed evidence is recorded in class Collective Worship folder at least twice every half term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Liturgical prayer is monitored using the NCDYS monitoring form. Class teachers regularly invite SLT members to share their Collective Worship.

Following monitoring, training needs will be identified and outcomes used to inform the current CSED/Action plan.

Resources

The Head Teacher and RE subject lead have overall responsibility for the liturgical prayer resources. However, each class has a Collective Worship Box, which is accessible to staff members and children. Included in the class resources are liturgical cloths (green, white and purple) representing the colours of the liturgical year; crucifix, crosses, rosary beads, candles, and a variety of different resources to be used in Collective Worship (pebbles etc.).

Children must have full access to a variety of resources and be encouraged to use resources from the indoor and outdoor environment when planning and leading Collective Worship, in order to promote awe and wonder.

The learning environment

"Symbols and icons of the Catholic faith when displayed in school and throughout its premises will help the school community and visitors to experience the uniqueness and sacredness of this learning environment."

Rev M Stock, 2005

From the moment children, parents, members of our school community and friends / visitors come into our school, they are greeted with a focal point which reflects our school ethos and values. In each classroom and throughout the school, focal points will reflect the liturgical season and will reference Come and See topics. In this way they will be an outward sign of the school's ethos alive in our school, vividly reminding all who work, play and pray together here that we Love Jesus in all we do.

Other opportunities

We take every opportunity to seek chances to visit groups within the local community, in order to share prayers and offer Jesus' love and friendship beyond our school building. Some examples of this are:

Our EYFS and Y1 children put on a wonderful Christmas Nativity each year, telling the story of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is exceptionally well attended and a wonderful opportunity for our school and Parish community to gather together to celebrate the joy of His birth.

Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations are held of significant importance at St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy. School masses are held at the start of each term and to celebrate the end of each academic year. All Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated in school. The whole school celebrates mass in Church either on All Saints Day or the Feast Day of St Peter and Paul.

Opportunities for children to plan and participate in school masses are maximised. Wherever possible, parents and members of the school and parish community are warmly invited.

Children in Year 3 will be supported through prayer and encouragement as they prepare and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Eucharist. Preparation classes for children and their parents take place in the Parish over a period of 9 months and are facilitated by the Parish Priest and members of the Parish Community.

The Collective Worship leader

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher work closely together to ensure Collective Worship is of a high standard at St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Head Teacher and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years, as detailed below. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role in this.