

Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy



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Collective Worship Policy

The mission statement of Christ the King Catholic School Catholic Voluntary Academy is

To provide the best education and care we can for all members of our Living Faith Community.

We will care for each other and treat each other with respect, recognising the uniqueness, diversity and dignity of each person in our community.

We will challenge each other to set and achieve the highest goals in academic subjects and personal development.

Each day we will all strive to create a welcoming environment for each student with the love of Christ at its centre.

Above all, we will actively grow in faith by seeking to know Jesus Christ and His holy Catholic Church; so that through prayer; working for justice and peace, and all we say and do, we will be his witnesses to the world.

The Nature of Collective Worship.

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school is concerned with giving worship, glory, honour and 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.¹ We also are called to Worship God, not just because of it being the right and fitting response, but in so doing what we receive from him, the Graces needed to live a good Christian life and freedom from turning inward on oneself and remaining in sin.²

The 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:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of the Church;
- Those from other Christian backgrounds;
- Those from other world faith backgrounds;
- 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 at a level or faith background appropriate to them.

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

The Aims of Collective Worship

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

- To give God the Glory he deserves from us as our Creator and Saviour
- To receive Grace and sanctification of our souls through the Sacraments
- To fulfil our obligation as a institute of the Catholic Church by responding to and celebrating life through worship and prayers of the Catholic tradition
- To enter into the life of the Holy Trinity and to contemplate something of the mystery of God;
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues while exploring and reflecting on staff and students' own beliefs and value systems;
- To experience a sense of belonging and community through a common ethos and shared value system;

¹ It is important to be clear about our use of terminology when dealing with the whole area of 'Collective Worship' in schools. 'Collective Worship' is a term used in legislation in this country but is not a phrase we use readily in a Catholic context. 'Prayer' and 'Liturgy' are terms more commonly used in our context and are explored in greater depth in the guidelines.

² Catechism of the Catholic Church Article 2097

- To enrich religious experience and the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the students; and grow in liturgical experience, understanding and skills;
- To reinforce positive attitudes by nurturing and educating students on their journey and towards full and active participation in the liturgical life of their faith communities through as full a participation as possible;

Principles

All Acts of Worship in the Catholic academy will:

- Give glory and honour to God by being Christocentric;
- Be of a high quality, fundamental to the life of the academy and; in keeping with the practices and norms of the Catholic Church
- Give students positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for and incorporate them in the liturgical life of the Church.³

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- Be of an appropriate pace and length
- Be reflective, engaging and clear, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Voluntary Worship, Pilgrimage and Retreats

Each morning there is the opportunity for students to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Students in the academy also have the opportunity to go for week long retreats to the Briars Residential retreat centre in years 8, and 10. The sixth form students have the opportunity to participate in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes as helpers. This opportunity gives them the experience of a pilgrimage and challenges them to put their faith into action. The Academy also looks to develop to increase their involvement in pilgrimages particularly Diocesan pilgrimages. Please also see the celebration of the sacraments.

Celebration of Sacraments within School

The Sacrament of the Eucharist celebrated and received during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the source and summit of the Christian Life.⁴ It is the source of unity between God and Man, and within the Church; and so is rightly called Holy Communion.⁵ We celebrate the Eucharist at Jesus' command to do this in memory of Him; we therefore participate in this form of worship at the command of God and receive the real presence of God.⁶ The sacrifice offered is a thanksgiving sacrifice of praise to the Father; it is the same sacrifice the Christ offered on the Cross of Calvary for our salvation and deliverance from sin.⁷ It is therefore the primary and most perfect form of Worship we participate in. The Academy will make sure that every Holyday of Obligation is celebrated with a whole Academy Mass.

There will be a Welcome Mass for Year 7 when they join the Academy and a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated on the Year 11 students' last day. These will be in addition the celebration of Mass for Patron Saint's Feast Days of each of our Houses, and a weekly Mass celebrated in the Chapel at Lunch time. Students will be actively involved in the preparation of all Masses and the different ministries; as well as participating through responding in the prayers, hymns, periods of silence and other liturgical actions.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to all pupils and staff on the second Friday of the month at Lunch time in the Chapel. It is part of a Reconciliation Service and is completely voluntary but those students whose behaviour points are a concern will be invited to come, reflect on their behaviour and given the opportunity to start afresh.

³ Directory for Masses with Children, paragraph 9.

⁴ CCC1324

⁵ CCC1325-1326,1331

⁶ CCC1357

⁷ CCC1359-1362

Legal Requirements.

We acknowledge the legal statutory requirement that a daily Act of Worship is provided for all students on the academy's register.⁸ (This can take place at any time during the academy day and can be either a single act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship in academy 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 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.

Provision for Act of Collective Worship Post 16 (School Leaving Age)

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 formal school leaving age is:

2006 Education Act on "Right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at worship"

(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 student at a community, foundation or voluntary school other than a sixth-form student requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the student shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

(1B) If a sixth-form student requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the student shall be so excused."

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

Each House group or Year group will gather once a week to celebrate an Act of Worship together.

Monday	Iona	Year 7
Tuesday	Canterbury	Year 8
Wednesday	Lindisfarne	Year 9
Thursday	Holywell	Year 10
Friday	Walsingham	Year 11

Every morning there will be time for prayer in all tutor groups, the day will also end in prayer.

The Acts of Collective Worship whether as a year group, house or form will follow the Liturgical seasons of the Church's Year.

Students will be actively involved in collective worship with some students taking a leading role in the planning and delivery of whole academy worship.

In Catholic voluntary aided schools and colleges within the state sector, as with any voluntary aided school, responsibility for the provision of collective worship along with the logistics for the provision for Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body and is normally delegated to the Head teacher.

- Following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, curriculum Religious Education, significant feasts, universes and events. Christ will be the focus in acts of worship, God's Revelation which

⁸ 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 need to 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.

is communicated through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium will help emphasise this focus.

- Involving consultation with appropriate parties, ie clergy and resource staff within the academy and in the context of the academy aims and policies
- With flexibility to respond to changing situations within the academy and the wider community
- To develop in pupil's skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always contributing in a token way.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship is the Lay Chaplain who at present is Mr Joseph Hopkins. The Co-ordinator is responsible for planning and organising whole Academy Collective Worship; and supporting staff and students to prepare Acts of Worship for forms, houses and year groups. The Co-Ordinator is also responsible for training staff in collective worship and leading Collective Worship for staff on INSET days etc.

Role of Other Staff

All leaders have a responsibility to support the planning content and delivery of worship in our academy. Form tutors are responsible for making sure a time of Collective Worship is celebrated in form when there is not a house Act of Worship; teachers are to ensure the prayer at the end of the day is celebrated. All staff members will be supported by the leadership team, the Chaplain and the RE department in ensuring that the experiences are appropriate to the mission of our academy. All staff and students are encouraged to pray together before meetings.

Role of Students

As mentioned above we believe that students should be actively involved in the planning, preparation and leadership of Collective Worship- in forms, class, houses and year groups; Masses and Liturgies. The Chaplaincy Team will be responsible for the preparing and leading the All Saints Day Mass and End of Term Liturgies. When Ash Wednesday falls in term time the sixth form students particularly those intending to go to Lourdes and the Prefect Team.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the academy's provision of worship will be formally evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all students and whether they are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. The group which oversees this is made up of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship, at least one Foundation Governor, at least one member of SLT, at least one member of the RE Department. The member of the RE department can also be a member of SLT or vice versa; other staff, governors or local clergy may also be added to the group if they so wish. There is a five year self-improvement plan for the Academy's Collective Worship to be reviewed each year.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- On a liturgy planner to keep note of themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources
- Through displays, collections of students' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs, videos etc.
- On the chaplaincy section of the school website and in Ctk News

Resources

Resources are available in the Chapel and RE department and all tutors are also issued with a prayer book and a planner for assemblies and daily prayer. All classrooms should have a Crucifix, classroom prayer book, poster of the Academy Mission Statement and Academy Prayer. All staff and students are given a copy of the Academy Prayer; each week the Chaplain emails a prayer resource that can be used in the form prayers. The Chaplain is also a resource in himself to support staff and students preparing Collective Worship.

Policy Monitoring and Review

The members of the senior leadership team have Collective Worship responsibility along with the Co-ordinator to monitor the policy. It is evaluated and reviewed by the Academy staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors (in the name of the Diocesan Trustees) will have a particular role and responsibility for this review. (The overall responsibility of Governors from a statutory perspective and Foundation Governors from the canonical perspective needs to be clearly stated in the context of the denominational nature of the academy.)

This policy has been adapted from the model guidance for Collective Worship in secondary schools and colleges; with additional material added by the Lay Chaplain and needs to be presented to the Senior Leadership team and Governing Body