



St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our School Motto

"Be ambitious for the higher gifts."

1 Cor. 12:31

Our Mission Statement

Welcome to our school.

At St. Aloysius' we learn to grow in holiness,
to become who we were made to be.

Here we seek to know God,
finding Him in all that we learn,
and understanding that all that is good, beautiful and true
offers us a glimpse of God.

Here we seek to love God,
with our hearts, our minds and our souls,
meeting Him in prayer and recognising Him in one another.

Here we seek to serve God,
making the best use of our gifts to serve those around us.

Here, recognising God's delight in us, and by His grace,
we become more fully alive.

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

Pope Benedict XVI

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Catholic school celebrates God's presence in our lives. Through worship, we advance in holiness, find God and grow in our relationship with him. It is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God through both personal prayer and according to the liturgy of the Church. 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.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

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. It will include all pupils unless they have been withdrawn by their parents.



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Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God;
- Be fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character;
- Be challenge pupils to contribute to the best of their ability;
- Develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way;
- 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.
- Collective worship in our school will be properly planned and well resourced.

Who was consulted?

This policy was approved by the governing body following consultation with staff, governors and the diocese.

Relationship to other policies

The policy should be read in conjunction with the curriculum and equality policies.

Legal requirements

Collective worship is a legal daily requirement which is distinct from curriculum time. For Catholic schools this requirement is made explicit within the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham which states:

"Religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.¹"

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of Collective Worship.

Roles and responsibilities of Head Teacher, other staff, governors

The Head Teacher will ensure that:

- the governing body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship
- a daily act of collective worship is provided
- alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship.

All staff are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator and the chaplain work closely together to prepare Masses.

Different forms of liturgy and collective worship

Collective worship takes a variety of forms in our school. These include:

- Whole school Masses several times per term

¹ Archdiocese of Birmingham 'Instrument of Government for Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools.'



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- Whole school assemblies three times per week
- Key stages assemblies weekly
- Child-led class worship weekly
- Class prayers at the beginning and end of each day, grace before lunch, the Angelus at midday.

School Masses

There are many Masses throughout the school year, typically:

Autumn

- First Mass of the new school year in the school hall
- All Saints and/or All Souls (1/2 November) 10am at the Oratory
- Immaculate Conception (8 December) 10am at the Oratory
- Advent/end of term in the school hall

Spring

- Epiphany/start of new term 10am at the Oratory
- Candlemas (2 February) 10am at the Oratory
- Ash Wednesday 10am at the Oratory
- The Annunciation (25 March) 10am at the Oratory
- Passiontide/end of term in the school hall

Summer

- Eastertide/start of term 10am at the Oratory
- Ascension 10am at the Oratory
- St Philip (26 May) 10am at the Oratory
- Confirmation Mass on the Vigil of Pentecost or Saturday after Pentecost, 11am at the Oratory
- First Communion Mass on the feast of St Aloysius, 6pm at the Oratory
- SS Peter & Paul (29th June) 10am at the Oratory
- End of year in the school hall

Resources

The prayers of the Mass are found in the Roman Missal, and the readings are taken from the three volumes of the Lectionary. Copies of these are in the staff room, together with other prayer books. A list of prayers pupils should know is given in the staff handbook, and on the chart provided by the diocese and displayed in the staff room. Each classroom has a number of bibles, and the whole class set of bibles is stored in the staff room. The RE and Collective Worship co-coordinator also provides staff with additional resources from time to time.

Prayer tables

Each classroom has a crucifix prominently displayed a prayer table. The table is usually draped with a cloth in a colour to match the liturgical season:

- September to the end of November – green
- Advent – purple
- Christmas to Candlemas – white or gold
- Candlemas to Shrove Tuesday – green



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- Lent – purple
- Easter to Pentecost – white or gold
- Pentecost to the end of the summer term – green

The prayer table will normally include a statue of Our Lady and usually a statue or image of a relevant saint or other images of devotion. It may include a crib at Christmas, scenes from the Stations of the Cross during Lent, an Easter Garden during Eastertide etc.

Assemblies

All assemblies are primarily acts of worship. To this end, all assemblies should include a prayer, and may include a reading from Scripture or from the lives or writings of one of the saints, and usually include a hymn. Themes and content should reflect aspects of the Catholic Faith.

Staff INSET

Regular staff meeting time is given to discussion of the Mass with the whole staff. This includes explanation of signs, symbols, practices as well as agreement on expectations of the children during Mass in church and in school. Any changes to the Liturgy or our own procedures are explored and explained. The Collective Worship co-ordinator and Headteacher in collaboration support new staff through induction into working in a Catholic School.

Links with the Parish Community and Parents

Parents are invited to attend school Masses when possible. When the school attends Mass at the Oratory Church, the school joins parishioners at the regular 10am Mass. Pupils are also invited to join in regularly scheduled liturgies and devotions at the Oratory church.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Acts of worship that involve the whole school should be accessible to SEND pupils. SEND pupils may be supported at assemblies or Masses by staff members. Staff will ensure that class prayers make use of the most essential prayers (e.g. the Our Father and Hail Mary) so that all can take part in them. All children regardless of faith are welcome and encouraged to participate at all acts of collective worship.

Health and Safety

Candles are only lit by children in the school hall, with adult supervision at all times. The health and safety procedures governing use of candles and visits to the church are described in the appropriate risk assessments, found in the school office.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

A member of the SIC will be nominated each year to observe collect worship in the school and provide a report to the SIC. The Head Teacher will also report on the numbers withdrawn and the effectiveness of the alternative arrangements. Parents and staff will be consulted about the impact of collective worship on pupils. CSI inspections will provide feedback on collective worship and its impact on pupils' spiritual development.



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Signed Head Teacher

Signed Chair of Governors

Date February 2022
Review February 2024