



Sacred Heart Catholic College

Collective Worship Policy

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| Reviewed by: | Governors |
| Approved by: | Full Governors |
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Collective Worship

Introduction

Pope Benedict XVI stated in September 2010 that *“education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for “both we and our words are in his hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts” (Wisdom 7:16).*

Collective Worship at Sacred Heart Catholic College goes beyond the statutory requirement for a daily act of worship for all pupils. Worship in this school is Christ-centred and an integral part of school life rooted in the Catholic tradition, reflecting the values of the Gospel.

Collective Worship should be defined in broad terms as those opportunities offered for pupils and staff to come together to pray and worship God. It is through these acts of communal worship that we may come to a fuller appreciation of ourselves, and of our relationship with God and others, while allowing us to reflect on what is of value and importance in our lives. All members of our school community have opportunities for prayer and reflection and both sacramental and non-sacramental liturgies.

There are many opportunities for the school community (pupils, staff, governors and parents) to share in the liturgical life of the school. Many occasions will be voluntary but encouragement is given to all to participate using their own gifts and talents. Acts of Collective Worship occur in year assemblies, morning prayer/reflection, and Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic celebrations.

Aims

Sacred Heart Catholic College aims to nurture an environment where all members of our community are able to take up the opportunities to express and develop their belief through organised and acts of worship.

- Each school day will begin with prayer during the registration period (either in the form class or assembly).
- The school will provide opportunities to celebrate Holy Days of Obligation and the Feast Day celebration.
- Other liturgical occasions will be marked (e.g. Ash Wednesday) by services.

Rationale

Collective Worship is held for the following reasons;

- To celebrate the Catholic faith of the school and the other faiths of those who attend Sacred Heart.
- To provide opportunities for staff and pupils to come together to worship God.
- To provide Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic liturgical experiences.
- To involve everyone in the preparation and delivery of prayer and liturgy.
- To reflect upon our needs, hopes and common humanity.
- To recognise each person's uniqueness and value.
- To celebrate and educate the whole person, not only academically but morally and spiritually.
- To bring meaning and dignity to the person through the building of a relationship with God.

Guidelines

- The expectation is that pupils will participate in an act of Collective worship every day in form or an assembly.
- To facilitate meaningful and reverent acts of worship to take place, guidelines for the preparation and delivery of assemblies and morning prayers have been produced. These include suggestions as to how we come together, use of a focus, music, environment and setting.
- Morning prayer in form will take place consistently
- Assemblies are designated times of prayer.
- Time is given for Heads of Year or relevant members of staff to promote any activities or for positive messages and/or rewards for pupils at the end of assemblies.
- A resource with prayers for the week is also emailed to staff at the beginning of each week.
- In the case of supply staff leading form prayers: a version of the prayers is available with the information pack supplied at reception.
- All themes are based upon the previous Sunday's Gospel in line with the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church.

- Assemblies are delivered by a variety of staff (with occasional visitors) who prepare their assembly around the weekly theme.
- Training and support is available to staff.

Expectations

Pupils are expected to:

- Participate in daily acts of Collective Worship in a respectful and reverent way.

Parents are expected to:

- Promote a positive attitude towards Collective Worship.

Teachers and any other adult leadings acts of worship are expected to:

- Ensure that acts of worship are in accordance with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.
- Ensure that there are opportunities for quality Collective Worship to be delivered.
- Ensure that an appropriate time is allocated for Collective Worship.

Heads of Year are expected to:

- Ensure that Form Tutors hold acts of Collective Worship.
- Monitor the quality of the acts of Collective Worship in form periods.

The Senior Leadership Team are expected to:

- Ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is fully implemented.
- Evaluate the impact of this policy on the quality of Collective Worship.

The Governors are expected to;

- Ensure that Collective Worship is delivered and monitored in accordance with this policy.