



## *St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School*

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Mission Statement**

*As a Catholic school, St Wulstan's seeks to enable each child to walk in faith with Christ, loving Him and each other. With the help of our families, our parish and our local community, we will do our best to use the gifts that God has given us to make our world a richer place.*

#### **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore our Catholic Faith
- to encourage participation and response
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to teach children how to worship

#### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, Mass or liturgy. We expect everyone to take an active part in all acts of collective worship.

While all acts of worship in our school are in line with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church, we also hold assemblies that inform us about the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

#### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be in the form of a whole school assembly, phase assembly, class assembly or class prayers

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are generally led by the Principal or other members of staff but are also planned and led by pupils.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Catholic Faith, particularly the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Wulstan's Catholic Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Children have many opportunities to lead Collective Worship as well as a designated Class Worship which the children plan, prepare and lead themselves. Each class takes part in a 'Showcase Assembly' and parents and carers are invited to attend. This is an opportunity for families to see what learning the children have been involved in at school. Children's achievements and celebration of their gifts and talents are celebrated in the weekly Celebration Assembly. Academy Representatives 'attendance at our assemblies, liturgies and Masses is always welcome.

### Acts of Collective Worship

When	What	Led by
<b>Monday</b>	Prayers within classrooms Whole School Assembly	Teaching staff Principal
<b>Tuesday</b>	Prayers within classrooms Key Stage Assembly	Teaching staff
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayers within classrooms Hymn Practice	Teaching staff
<b>Thursday</b>	Prayers within classrooms Class Worship	Teaching staff Pupils
<b>Friday</b>	Prayers within classrooms Class Mass Whole School Celebration Assembly	Teaching staff Principal

- Pupils plan and lead class worship on each Thursday.
- The Liturgical Calendar plays a large part in the planning of collective worship and liturgy e.g. Holy Days of Obligation, Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter.

**Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly, liturgy and Mass. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Principal keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

**Monitoring and review**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of Academy Representatives, who are also responsible for Religious Education. This Academy Representative liaises with the Principal before reporting to the full Academy Committee.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Signed:	_____	Principal
Signed:	_____	Chair of the Academy Committee
Date:	_____	