



St Paschal Baylon  
Catholic Primary School

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Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

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# Collective Worship Policy

St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School  
Collective Worship Policy  
'Following in the footsteps of Christ'

### Background Information:

St Paschal Baylon Primary School has approximately 370 boys and girls, aged 4–11 on roll who come from the residential areas of Bowring Park and Childwall. Within each year group there are identified pupils with special educational needs.

### What is Collective Worship?

"Worship is concerned with the reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power."  
(Circular 1/94)

"Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God."

The worship which takes place in St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary School is Collective Worship.

This takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- 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

Collective Worship is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It is central to education in our school and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship.

Collective Worship in our school respects the diversity of belief and commitment, but it is Catholic in character, reflecting in the liturgical tradition of the Church and having

Christ at its heart.

Worship in our school will be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common.

### Why Collective Worship?

Collective Worship in our school provides opportunities for learners and staff to come together to worship God:

- To reflect on spiritual and moral beliefs
- To reflect on personal belief
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To mark us as special
- To come to terms with
- To give worth to
- To wonder at
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To contemplate something of the Mystery of God
- To take time out
- To develop a community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values

### Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Governing Body have a responsibility for drawing up this policy for Collective Worship after consulting the Head Teacher and RE Leader.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship is provided for each child each day.

Class teachers are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship each day.

Learners must have the opportunity to take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.

Parents and other adults can be invited to participate in Collective Worship.

Teachers, Chaplains, children and visitors can lead Collective Worship.

### **Where Collective Worship Takes Place:**

- In the classroom
- In the open air
- In the school hall

Acts of Collective Worship should take place in school, but the Governing Body have the discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions.

### **When Collective Worship Takes Place:**

Collective Worship need not take place at the beginning of the school day, but at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful experience for all participants.

Collective Worship in our school takes place in classes, year groups, key stages and as a whole school.

Monday – Thursday – Class/Year Group

Friday – Key Stage/Whole School

Whole School/Key Stage Collective Worship can often take place on any day of the week at the discretion of the Headteacher dependent on feast days and other events that have taken place in school life.

### **Length of Collective Worship**

In general Collective Worship should last one minute for each year of a child's life.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship in our school will provide a variety of experiences which:

- Can be led by learners, staff and visitors
- Can be offered for a class, year group, Key Stage or whole school
- Use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, dance, drama, slides, video excerpts or short addresses
- Ensure the theme, focus, delivery length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and ability of the learners.
- Set an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion, including entry and exit
- Provide a focus using artefacts, candles, symbols and lighting
- Respect the freedom of learners and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensure the possibility of conscious, active participation of all present.

Collective Worship will be planned, recorded and evaluated.

### Planning

- Through consultation with appropriate parties and references to the school's aims and policies
- With reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum

### Recording

- To keep note of the themes, leaders, learning groups and resources
- Through displays, collections of learner's contributions, prayers and reflections

### Evaluation

- Regularly by staff and learners
- With reference to the variety of Collective Worship experiences possible

This policy is reviewed annually.

Signed: E. Martin

Signed: K. Nolan

Position: RE Leader

Position: Chair of Governors