

St. Mary's College



Collective Worship Policy 2023/2024

Reviewed by: K. Gavin – September 2023
Date of Next Review: September 2024

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and is an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship. It is an essential part of every pupil's entitlement.

St Mary's seeks to affirm, nurture and develop the faith and spiritual growth of all its members; promote and develop moral values and encourage individuals' participation in the life of the church at a school level, as well as encouraging links with parish life and the Archdiocese and building on our links with Edmund Rice International

As a school of designated religious character, religious worship at the College is in accordance with the doctrines, rites, practices and observances of the Roman Catholic Church.

Our mission is to show our faith by how we live, love and learn.

Aims of Collective Worship

1. To start the day in a unified way.
2. To reflect on God and the teachings of Jesus.
3. To explore our own beliefs
4. To experience a sense of community and belonging.
5. To develop shared values and a common ethos.
6. To enrich religious experience.
7. To dedicate part of a busy school day to quiet reflection.
8. To pray for those around the world in need as the starting point for Catholic Social Teaching.
9. To find time for silence.
10. To reinforce prayer and liturgy as part of the Catholic tradition.

Arrangements for Collective Worship

St Mary's has a strong tradition of liturgical celebration. Holy Mass is celebrated as a welcome mass for Year 7 and family, as a celebration for Y11 and family before examination leave and as a celebration for Y13 and family before they leave. Holy Days of Obligation are also celebrated including All Saints and SS Peter and Paul. An annual Advent Carol service also takes place. Furthermore a weekly Eucharistic service takes place on a Friday for staff, pupils and parents- *as the source and summit of all Christian life*. We have strong links with our local Crosby parishes including SS Peter and Paul's and St. Helens. We are fortunate that Priests across the Diocese come to celebrate mass. Weekly assemblies and form prayers supported with resources on Firefly also take place which are led by pupils, form teachers and HOY/HOS. The school has its own chapel which allows pupils and staff opportunities for quiet reflection.

Pupils attend one assembly per week which will usually be prepared by individual forms. An assembly rota with monthly themes is published in September. The themes take into account lectionary, Pope Francis' prayer themes, important cultural/social events, current affairs issues, patron saints days. Each theme has an inspirational quote to support it that acts as inspiration for pupils to plan assemblies they feel involved in and passionate about.

On the other four days of the week prayer will take place in form, either led by form teacher or pupils. Form teachers have resources supplied on Firefly for prayers and inspirational videos that support theme of month. At KS3 prayer is in keeping with PSHE Ten Ten resources. KS3 classes will spend one lesson per half term in the chapel for quiet reflection as part of RS classes. Each form room has a prayer space with votive candle, liturgical cloth, prayer jar and prayer resources.

The school chaplain also leads worship of a Friday morning for form groups in the chapel on a rota throughout the course of the year.

Staff participate in prayer lead by Headmaster of a Monday morning which links to Sunday Gospel reading and a staff prayer service takes place each morning in the staff room. Staff volunteer on a rota to lead prayers.

All pupils will attend Holy Mass when celebrated in school and Ash Wednesday services, along with end of term services. Pupils of different faiths or none also attend as a way of supporting the Catholic identity of the school and community of which they are a part. All staff of the College are also invited to attend. When possible some pupils from The Mount will also attend.

All pupils in Year 7-11 participate in an annual retreat at Animate, providing them with the time and space to reflect on faith and their religious journey. Sacrament of Reconciliation is made available to pupils during annual retreats to Animate and at Year 8 links are made between school and parish for pupils wishing to receive Sacrament of Confirmation through the *Liverpool Called* network.

The College encourages links between school and home and includes parents in Collective Worship through weekly reflections that are published in the school newsletter and on social media. Parents are also invited to attend a weekly Eucharistic Service.

The Governors are committed to having a chapel in the school which is a suitable place for prayer and contemplation. This provides an area for Chaplaincy groups like ERI to meet, plan services, outreach work, campaigns or a space for quiet time, should they wish to use it. Many classrooms and shared spaces around the college have religious iconography on display.

Collective Worship is more than just a matter of the heart and mind or something that is done through formal mass and worship, but also a call to action. The command to Love One's Neighbour is reflected in our numerous charity and outreach commitments and is further example of St Mary's commitment to Collective Worship and how we put our mission into real action.

Staff are regularly trained in the importance of Collective Worship and the role they are called to play in its delivery. Staff also attend a retreat organised through ERI and Christian Brothers network.

A budget is allocated to chaplaincy work to facilitate all of the above.

St Mary's will ensure that all pupils are made aware of other faiths and gain knowledge and understanding of world religions, to live out British Values of responsibility and sensitivity, as well as inclusivity. This will equip them to be global citizens and mature members of a multi-racial and multi-faith society.