

**ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL**  
**Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) Policy**

Agreed by staff: Summer 2024  
Approved by Governors Summer 2024  
Review date: Summer 2025

Signed by Chair of Governors: S. Howard Date: 25.6.2024

Mission Statement

*At St. Bede's Catholic Infant School it is the mission of the whole school community to nurture a loving, safe, caring, supportive, quality environment in which the individual has the opportunity to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.*



Rationale

*“Where two or three are gathered in my name – I am there among them.”*  
(Matthew 18:20)

Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy) at St Bede's has its foundations in the Gospels and endeavours to care for the religious, spiritual and educational needs of all who play a part in the community. Therefore, worship is inclusive and sensitive to all individuals;

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom School may be the first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those of no faith

Collective Worship is more than a legal requirement as it is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of the School's overall provision for prayer and worship. As a school we use the term 'Collective Worship' as the title of our Prayer and Liturgy provision throughout the policy.

The Act of Worship at St Bede's is in accordance with rites, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church. Every child has the opportunity to participate in daily worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from worship if they so choose.

## Aims

Collective Worship at St Bede's endeavours to help all those who take part in it to realise that:- *"Worship is concerned with the glory of God"*

The aim of Collective Worship in St Bede's is to:-

- have Christ at its heart
- provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God and reflect upon the Gospel Values
- be Catholic in character and reflect the tradition and seasons of the Church
- enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- respect the diversity of belief and commitment
- promote a common ethos and shared values
- build a firm foundation for liturgy
- enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- support the children's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation or through listening to and reflecting upon the worship

## Objectives

To fulfil the aims, St Bede's will provide opportunities for the celebrating community to:-

- participate in worship which includes the four principles of Liturgy: Gather, Listen, Respond and Go Forth
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- wonder at the world and God's creation
- contemplate something of the mystery of God
- celebrate life and learning
- take time to think and reflect
- pray together
- take part in worship through the arts, including drama and song
- follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping Gospel values at the heart of everything
- explore the child's own experiences by providing opportunities to respond to the three parts of the Come and See RE programme (Explore, Reveal, Respond) with regard to all acts of Collective Worship.

## Planning and Organisation of Collective Worship

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name – I am there among them."*

(Matthew 18:20)

All children have the opportunity to participate in a daily act of worship including through Class Collective Worship, Year Group Collective Worship, Whole School Collective Worship. Worship is planned using the 4 stage process recommended by the CED in Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth. Children are given opportunities to prepare for, plan and deliver aspects of Collective Worship appropriate to age and stage of development. Respect for the occasion is supported through the use of music, candles, quality resources and focus table engendering stillness and respect for the occasion. The theme, focus and delivery are appropriate to the children's stage of development. Worship is an invitation to prayer and worship. It is responsive to events within the school and the wider community.

### **Monitoring**

The Headteacher and RE Co-ordinator observe the delivery of Collective Worship across the school at least annually. Foci for observations are included in the School Development Plan. Observations are recorded and feedback is given to staff. Planning for Collective Worship is monitored termly by the RE Co-ordinator. Strengths and areas for development are discussed and agreed with staff. Parents and Governors are informed of the importance/success of Collective Worship through invitations to share Collective Worship with the children and, as appropriate, through newsletters, school website and the Headteacher's Report to Governors.

### **SEN/Inclusion**

The whole approach to Collective Worship is inclusive and the individual needs of every child are considered when Collective Worship is being planned.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Care is taken to ensure that all material used in developing the spiritual needs of the children addresses the issues of sex, gender, race and religion. All children are treated as unique individuals and everyone is given the opportunity to play a part in Collective Worship.

### **Staff Development**

Staff attend any relevant courses and give feedback during staff meetings. The impact of training is evaluated as appropriate. Dedicated staff meeting time is given to reflect on good practice and areas for development in Collective Worship.

### **Home/Parish Links**

Mrs C Towell and Mrs N Wylie, our link Associate Members of the Governing Body, regularly shares Collective Worship with our children. Once a term, the parents/carers of each class are invited to come and share Collective Worship with their children. On occasion school, year group and class worships are led by our Parish Priests.

## APPENDIX 1

### General Principles of Liturgy

- Liturgy is the praise and worship of God
- Liturgy is the source and summit of the Church's life and our lives
- It is the right and duty of all the baptised, both children and adults
- The function of liturgy is to build up the members of Christ's body, to strengthen us in preaching Christ
- Liturgy is action and symbol; it speaks to the whole person, it involves all the senses: sight, touch, sound, taste and smell
- Participating in liturgy forms our habits because we are ritual people and learn through repetition and copying
- In liturgy we discover the riches of prayer through word and gesture, silence and stillness
- The purpose of adapting liturgy for children is to lead them into full conscious and active participation in the liturgy of the parish
- Liturgy with children, as with adults, demands dignity, clarity, simplicity

**Taken from: Liturgy of the Word with Children Guidelines  
(Liturgy Office, Bishops Conference of England and Wales. 1996)**